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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

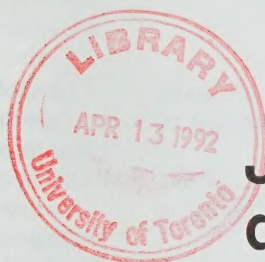
Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 6 April 1992



# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le lundi 6 avril 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





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### **Table des matières**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 6 April 1992

The House met at 1500.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the chamber and being seated upon the throne, was pleased to open the session with the following gracious speech.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE DISCOURS DU TRÔNE

**Hon Henry N. R. Jackman (Lieutenant Governor):**  
Pray be seated.

Mr Speaker, members of the Legislative Assembly, ladies and gentlemen:

I have the honour of welcoming you to the opening of the second session of the 35th Parliament of the province of Ontario.

In opening this session, I am pleased to report that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, will be visiting the nation's capital from June 30 to July 2 to join in the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Confederation.

We are a remarkably diverse people, coming from all over the world, living and working in the heart of a Canada we love and want to strengthen. We are a truly international community living in a global economy.

We believe fundamentally that the purpose of an efficient, productive and competitive economy is to provide a secure, healthy and prosperous society. But experiences of the past months and years show that nothing can be taken for granted, and we have to learn and understand how to do things better ourselves.

The illusion that our society has to choose between caring and productivity, between compassion and efficiency, has to be broken. Ontario at its best has always tried to choose both. We will manage our public resources more efficiently and effectively so we can continue to build a fairer society.

Taking care of the environment is an essential part of true progress, and making our economy more conserving will ultimately be a source of strength and competitiveness. Anything less, in this generation and the next, is simply a charge on the future.

We have to be prepared to take a longer view, to understand the importance of learning and skill, to celebrate the fact that we are an international society, to encourage real cooperation between governments, business, labour and communities and to break down the solitudes we can no longer afford.

Jamais auparavant nous n'avons traversé de période aussi critique pour notre province et pour notre pays. L'année qui vient décidera peut-être de l'avenir du Canada. Notre gouvernement prend une part active aux débats intenses engagés entre le gouvernement fédéral, les gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux et les peuples autochtones afin de réaliser un fédéralisme renouvelé, capable d'unir le Canada. Il nous faut faire preuve de créativité et de souplesse. Rien d'autre ne pourra assurer l'avenir de nos enfants.

And so too with the economy. Dealing with the most persistent and deepest recession since the 1930s has been an enormous challenge for this government, and governments across Canada. Sadly, there are disturbing signs that this recession's hold on some of the most powerful economies around the globe has not loosened as predicted.

But our province faces additional challenges. Ontario lost more than an argument in the free trade deal. Implemented without adjustment measures, free trade has devastated Ontario's manufacturing base, costing tens of thousands of jobs in Ontario communities. Combined with the goods and services tax, persistently high real interest rates and an overvalued dollar, the new trading arrangements between Canada and the United States have not worked for Ontario.

Now the prospect of a North American free trade deal, driven by political agendas unconcerned with the welfare of this province's businesses and workers, is equally disturbing. My government has made it clear to the national government that this is not the time, particularly as profound changes are being negotiated to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, for more adventurism at the expense of Ontario jobs.

The federal government's cap on transfers to the provinces, coming as the recession struck with full force, represents a fundamental and unilateral change in the rules of federalism. This change is unacceptable to the taxpayers of Ontario.

The Ontario government cannot, by itself, solve every economic problem, but neither can we rely on others to fix our economic circumstances. We must do what we can ourselves. My government has already launched an economic renewal plan, an investment strategy to build a stronger future during this time of change. We are investing in the people and the economy of Ontario now to build a dynamic economy that treats all Ontarians fairly.

Today, there is no subject more important to the people of Ontario than getting our economy back to health. Doing our part to build a stronger economy is the first priority of government.

Investing in business: Our investment strategy starts with the conviction that a strong economy depends on a flourishing business sector.

The foundation of Ontario's economy remains our manufacturing and resource industries. Our province is also the financial centre of the country, and is home to a growing and important service sector. Today's world of free trade and globalization has forced our economy, along with all others, to restructure and adjust to changing conditions.

Many in Ontario are meeting the challenge, taking on and winning in the international marketplace. Our province is one of the best places in the world to do business.

Recently, Delcan International Corp of North York was awarded a \$36-million contract to design and implement two state-of-the-art sewage treatment plants in Venezuela.



1510

Sandoz Ltd of Whitby, a pharmaceutical firm, was awarded the mandate to produce and distribute Neo Citran for the entire North American market by its Swiss parent.

Babcock and Wilcox of Cambridge led the Ontario Group consortium to sign a \$900-million contract to design, build and commission an 1,100-megawatt thermal power plant in Iran. This will generate nearly \$400 million of goods and services for participating Ontario businesses.

My government welcomes the remarkable turnaround by Magna Ltd, a major force in automotive parts.

Where challenges exist, my government is prepared to be creative in proposing solutions and assisting companies, communities and workers build a new future in different ways.

C'est ainsi que les montants investis dans l'usine Spruce Falls à Kapuskasing et dans l'Algoma Steel à Sault-Sainte-Marie ont permis de sauvegarder des emplois dans ces localités tout en ouvrant de nouveaux horizons pour la participation des travailleurs et travailleuses à la propriété de l'entreprise.

My government's strategic investment as a minority shareholder in de Havilland Aircraft has already paid dividends. A reinvigorated de Havilland recently announced a new sale of planes and plans to produce a new line of Dash-8 aircraft.

A more stable future for UTDC has also been assured with its sale to Bombardier, making the firm the largest North American manufacturer of mass transit systems and equipment.

When appropriate, government can play a strategic role as partner or coinvestor with the private sector.

Our assistance to a three-company venture involving Devtek Corp and Ortech International of Mississauga, and Stewart and Stevenson Power Inc, will help bring an efficient natural gas fuel injection system to market.

Last fall, the government signed a memorandum of understanding with the Society of the Plastics Industry of Canada to cooperate with this growing Ontario industry as it makes major inroads into the global marketplace.

The government has supported the establishment of the Industrial Research and Development Institute in Midland. The institute, dealing with advanced tools, dies and moulds, represents a unique partnership between the private sector, academic community, and government to enhance Canada's competitive position through applied research and development.

Innovative solutions for the forest industry are being developed by the joint business-labour-government Forest Industry Action Group.

We intend to keep investing in Ontario jobs and business. Ontario will continue its support to position many small and mid-size Ontario firms for future expansion. In addition, we will step up our work with groups of companies in key areas of our economy to broaden Ontario's base of skills, knowledge and innovation, enhancing our ability to compete in world markets. We will announce new funds to assist the development of made-in-Ontario products and promote our successes aggressively around the globe.

My government will introduce measures to assist Ontario's agricultural community, hit hard by the recession and international trade policies. Already we have announced the commodity loan guarantee program to help farmers meet financing requirements this spring. Under this program, we expect more than \$50 million to be lent this year and as much as \$100 million in subsequent years.

Investing in infrastructure: While the federal government has yet to respond to our challenge to invest in the infrastructure of Ontario, my government will continue to invest billions of dollars this year in vitally needed capital works, including transportation, housing, education, communications and environmental protection. We will work in partnership with Ontario Hydro and local and regional governments. We continue to seek the participation of the government of Canada.

The Treasurer will release details later this spring of our plans to channel capital resources towards growth-related projects and continue the government's commitment to renewing our infrastructure.

New investment mechanisms: A central challenge to Ontario is getting access to investment dollars, whether for new projects or expanding enterprises. My government appreciates the sound advice on investment strategies offered through the Premier's Council on Economic Renewal.

Beginning this spring, consultation will take place on establishing an Ontario investment fund designed to increase voluntarily the productive investment by Ontario pension plans in the Ontario economy. There can be few better uses for Ontario pension funds than investing in jobs in our own province while providing good returns to Ontario workers and retirees.

The government will restructure the investment services of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. The investment development office will create a one-stop shopping system for business investing and expanding in Ontario.

Worker ownership legislation will come forward for final debate.

The credit union and cooperative movements play a major role in supporting small business and community investments. The Co-operative Corporations Act and proposals on credit union reform will go forward this session. These are innovative solutions to our need for new investment.

Municipalities will be given increased flexibility to borrow and invest.

Investing in the environment: In the 1990s and into the next century, the interests of the environment and the economy are converging as consumers, businesses and governments respond to new realities. Green restructuring is happening all around us as domestic and international standards change, consumers demand green products and technology advances.

Our investment strategy includes a green industry strategy to support our environmental goals and make Ontario a leading producer and exporter of environmental goods and services.



Recently we concluded an agreement with Canadian General Electric to locate in Ontario production of energy-efficient lighting products for the North American market.

Ontario continues to be on target to become a leading jurisdiction in energy efficiency by the year 2000. Hydro's Home Power Saver audit program, under way right now, will save participating households \$350 million. The utility's overall demand management programs will save \$170 million and stimulate over 10,000 jobs in Ontario this year.

During the next year the Sewell commission on planning and development reform in Ontario will produce recommendations on a land use system that is both efficient and environmentally responsible.

The environment bill of rights consultation group, involving members of the environmental and business communities, is expected to report this spring. Draft legislation will be released later this year.

My government acknowledges the productive work of the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy and looks forward to its recommendations on a strategy for sustainable development this spring.

Streamlining regulation: The regulatory system in Ontario is overburdened. While each individual regulation, act or process has its justification, the accumulation over several decades has resulted in gridlock.

Our investment strategy includes tackling critical roadblocks in the regulatory maze.

We are immediately committing new resources to the backlog at the Ontario Municipal Board. Already we have achieved modest success in speeding up the process, and we are determined to do more. Last week we appointed a facilitator to move vital capital projects through the regulatory process as part of a broader urban economic recovery strategy. A task force to streamline regulations will be set up to identify and remove unnecessary regulations and barriers.

My government will not engage in destructive deregulation. The ongoing reform of the environmental assessment process will simplify, expedite and clarify the process, not lower Ontario's environmental standards.

This is an area where actions are more important than words, and the recent fast-track approvals of the two expansions of the Spadina subway in Metropolitan Toronto are promising examples of the creative solutions possible.

Amendments to the Condominium Act will be introduced to overcome outmoded legislation that is inhibiting development and inadequately protecting consumers. The building code will be updated. My government will revise the Planning Act to increase the supply of basement apartments throughout the province, an inexpensive way to increase affordable housing and create jobs in the home renovation industry.

#### 1520

Investing in people: Ontario's people are its greatest strength. In our budget we will be releasing details of a new training strategy that will help create thousands of new jobs in growth areas of the private sector, particularly in small businesses, while providing new training opportunities. The plan will put social assistance recipients and

workers whose unemployment insurance has run out back to work.

We will, as part of the strategy, increase the child care spaces available for working women.

This session we will introduce legislation that will make Ontario a leader in training with the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. Building on real economic partnership, representatives of labour, business and community groups will take responsibility for many training programs now run by government.

The investment strategy will also give a high priority to training agreements that tie skills development directly to market needs. We are vigorously pursuing new agreements with the steel industry and with auto parts employers and employees, where up to 30,000 workers could benefit.

Work on reforming and restructuring the school system, including curriculum, is proceeding with the goal of making what and how our students learn more relevant to today's society and work world. The first effects will be felt in the coming school year.

Ontario's workforce has changed, both in terms of who is in it and what they do. Women, members of minority communities and part-time workers are significant and growing contributors to our economy. The rules that govern our labour force, however, have not kept pace. In fact, the Ontario Labour Relations Act has not been reformed for more than 15 years.

Our public consultations on the act have recently concluded, and my government has listened intently to the advice from representatives of both the business community and the labour movement.

The legislation, with changes based on the results of those consultations, will come forward this session. Many will prejudice the bill, and spend large sums of money doing so. My government will move forward responsibly and reasonably.

No economy can function at its peak and no society can call itself truly fair if some of our citizens are excluded from full participation because of discrimination.

Employment equity legislation will be brought forward this session. By tackling workplace discrimination, all Ontarians will have more opportunity to contribute fully and creatively in their jobs. Using the talents and abilities of all our people will help us compete in a global economy. Simply put, employment equity makes good economic sense.

As well, my government will proceed with legislation to extend pay equity to 400,000 women left out of the original legislation, underscoring our commitment to fairness for all Ontarians and the right to a decent living wage.

Affordable and effective public services: The province's economic circumstances have forced the government to make some tough decisions about the services we provide and the funding that goes with them.

More difficult decisions are coming. The budget will announce the first-phase results of a massive review of government programs, affecting virtually every Ontarian. We are implementing stringent financial measures, beyond the spending cuts, salary freezes and program savings al-



ready announced, to control the government's operating expenses. These efforts will continue.

As we said when we provided an historically low increase in the transfers to schools, universities, colleges, hospitals and municipalities, governments must balance the cost of services people expect and need and what we can afford. Every dollar that goes to pay the interest on borrowed money is a dollar that cannot be spent to improve our health care system, educate our children or provide a vital service.

We remain profoundly committed to national programs and to paying our fair share in Confederation, particularly in support of equalization. Ontario asks in return that it be treated with fairness as we experience unprecedented change.

Our job has been made enormously difficult by the federal government's abdication of its traditional responsibility to pay its share of health care, social assistance and education costs. In this fiscal year alone, these actions by the federal government will cost Ontario about \$4.5 billion, or more than \$1,700 for the average family of four in our province.

The federal government's unilateral and arbitrary cap on social spending in Ontario could not come at a worse time. Changes to unemployment insurance, for instance, have shifted a tremendous financial burden to our social assistance rolls at the very time the federal government has cut its share of welfare costs. The effect on families has been devastating.

With our public services being pushed to the brink, the government must act to preserve them. We will manage more effectively and efficiently. Where necessary, sectors will undergo a dramatic restructuring as the tough choices are made.

Many ministers in my government are working closely with affected sectors to start the sometimes difficult process of changing the way Ontario provides services and the way the public has access to them. Already results are being achieved.

In the hospital sector, for example, plans are being developed in Guelph to rebuild St Joseph's Hospital as a long-term care facility and develop Guelph General Hospital as an acute care hospital. This rationalization of services will build expertise and save money. At Women's College Hospital in Toronto, management and a union president worked together to implement innovative recycling, operational efficiency and retraining programs. Major cost savings were achieved with almost no layoffs or service reductions.

These tangible examples speak well for the job ahead. If we do not succeed, then badly needed reforms in our child care, social assistance and long-term care systems will be unaffordable. Future funding can no longer be an automatic add-on; emphasis must be on shifting resources.

A critical component of these plans is labour relations. Public sector employers must find ways in which workers and their representatives can participate fully in designing new, more effective delivery systems for the high-quality public services Ontarians deserve. Creative collective bar-

gaining, such as the settlement at Ontario Hydro with its employees, can produce solutions where no one loses.

My government is confident that this province will emerge from the current economic circumstances stronger. Our investment strategy recognizes that the way back to economic health for Ontario will require intense commitment by all Ontarians and the willingness to work in partnership to achieve the goals we share.

As we do so, we know that building a stronger Ontario is one of the greatest contributions we could make to a strong and united Canada.

Puisse la divine Providence guider vos délibérations.

In our Sovereign's name, I thank you.

God bless the Queen and Canada.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Prayers.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I beg to inform the House that, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of His Honour's speech, which I will now read. [Reading dispensed with.]

1530

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### WATERFRONT REGENERATION TRUST AGENCY ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 SUR L'AGENCE FIDUCIAIRE DE RÉGÉNÉRATION DU SECTEUR RIVERAIN

Mrs Grier moved first reading of Bill 1, An Act to establish the Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency / Loi créant l'Agence fiduciaire de régénération du secteur riverain.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** It gives me great pleasure and pride today to table in the Legislature the Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency Act. The legislation provides the framework for the establishment and operation of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, to coordinate the regeneration of the Lake Ontario waterfront from the Trent River in the east to Burlington Bay in the west.

It will champion the ecological integrity of the waterfront, identify and protect the public's interest in the waterfront based on the principles of clean, green, usable, diverse, open, accessible, connected, affordable and attractive, and work with all levels of government, agencies, community groups and other interests, including the private sector, to meet common goals compatible with job creation, economic development and a healthy, accessible waterfront.

I am sure all members of the Legislature will take pride in being a part of this legislation. We are taking the first step in creating a healthy, resilient and productive shoreline. This will allow for both social and commercial development within a framework of protecting natural areas, rehabilitating degraded areas and improving access and recreational opportunities.

## MOTIONS

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr Cooke moved that the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to the House be taken into consideration tomorrow, Tuesday, April 7, 1992.

Motion agreed to.

## LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I beg to inform the House that Ms McLeod, the member for the electoral district of Fort William, is recognized as the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I would certainly like to signal my congratulations, and certainly the congratulations of all the members of the government caucus, to the member for Fort William. I've had an opportunity to congratulate her personally and I know, together with millions of other Ontarians, that we were able to watch the convention at which you were elected and had an opportunity to see what I think was a very important day, not only for the honourable member but for democracy in the province, following the election of the member for Nipissing, which I thought was also an interesting and important innovation in the way in which party leaders are elected. No doubt one day my own party will reflect on those experiences.

I have no idea what day that will be, but until that day I want to say to the honourable member that I very much look forward to working with her. Her reputation for hard work, fine leadership, great collegiality and fine ability in government and in opposition is well known. I want to assure the honourable member, in all seriousness, as I've said to her, that while we may have our partisan differences, she will always have my respect, and I know she will always have the respect and affection of members of the House.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I too wish to say a few words of congratulations to my friend and colleague from northern Ontario. I think the election of the two of us as leaders of the two parties in opposition can go a significant distance in educating the rest of Ontario about northern Ontario.

I'm always amazed, when I tell people I'm from North Bay, how many people say, "Oh, yes, Mike Harris from Thunder Bay." I say, "No, North Bay," and they say, "Yes, Thunder Bay, North Bay, what's the difference?" I say, "About 1,200 kilometres, about the same as from Toronto to Prince Edward Island."

Madam Leader, I think your election as leader, the process you followed, is a significant event. I think it did move along, as the Premier has indicated, the evolution of empowerment and how we will select leaders in this province. I think it's also significant that the two of us do come from northern Ontario. It's significant that we were friends and met long before either one of us, I think, ever dreamed we'd seek election to this Legislature—in fact, as committee members together on the executive of the northern On-

tario school trustees' association, I won't say how many years ago for the sake of both of us.

1540

I was only distressed by one clipping—today is a positive day—where there was some speculation by some reporters that somehow or other it was a disadvantage to be a leader from northern Ontario. I want to comment on that, because I know the Treasurer would disagree with that. Those in the Legislature will know I would disagree with that. I will never, ever allow any in the media or in this province to say you are heading in the wrong direction because you're from northern Ontario. That's not the reason. I will defend that and be on your side, Madam Leader, as we both go forward in our roles.

Let me also say this—my wife is here today; my two sons are not—not only are you making a tremendous sacrifice, as you are discovering, I am sure. The moves from elected member to cabinet minister to leader each are substantial steps. You have made this commitment, but your family members have made this commitment as well. I say to your family and I say to the Premier's family, I think, and my family would share in this, that at a time particularly when a lot of people are questioning politicians, are for whatever reason fed up perhaps with the whole lot of us, it is a tremendous sacrifice you and your family have made to fight for what you believe in, for the crusade you believe in on behalf of this great province of ours.

I congratulate you and your family, I welcome you to this club and I assure you that we will work most cooperatively as you and I strive for one other objective that one has in political leadership in this province today.

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** I do want to express my appreciation for the congratulations that have been offered by the Premier and by the leader of the third party and indeed the congratulations that have been offered by so many members of the House. I also appreciate the best wishes, although I realize that they are offered with understandable moderation.

I did have an opportunity, which I appreciated, to meet with the Premier and he, as he indicated, offered me personal congratulations. I will confess I took advantage in a somewhat unilateral fashion as a newly elected leader of our party to suggest coalition, but the Premier was not ready for my terms and conditions.

I also received a note from the leader of the third party in which he drew attention to what I had also been recollecting, and that was our many shared experiences in the past as northerners, as school trustees and as members of the northern Ontario school trustees' association together. I think there are many comparisons and certainly one point of agreement as we begin our shared work in opposition, and that is that there are no disadvantages in being a leader coming from northern Ontario. I do trust that some of the perhaps more subtle differences between us beyond the fact that you come from North Bay and I come from Thunder Bay will become increasingly apparent over the course of the next months.

I am indeed proud and very privileged to have been selected leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, and I am more



than ready to accept the responsibilities as Leader of the Opposition. Today we are gathered to hear the speech from the throne. I will have an opportunity to comment on that at some length and I will certainly restrain myself from doing so in this place at this time. But I would like to take just a moment of the time of the House, if I may, first to express the appreciation of the members of our caucus and our party and I believe all members of the House to the three individuals who accepted the responsibility to serve in interim leadership roles while we were carrying out our leadership selection process: to Jim Bradley, to Murray Elston and to Bob Nixon. We know, of course, that Bob Nixon is now non-political, although I am sure he watches the proceedings of this place with at least a degree of mild curiosity.

I would also like, on behalf of myself and my fellow candidates in the leadership contest, to express our appreciation to all members of the House, particularly members of our caucus, for the patience and the support we all received as we carried out our legislative duties along with the demands of a campaign over a long period of time. Mr Premier, it is a process I can recommend to you and your party at such time as you feel it is required.

I assure all members of the House and the Premier that the Liberal caucus is now back in full force, united and looking forward to the session ahead.

MARY ROWELL JACKMAN

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** I beg the indulgence of the House, but I think we have a very special guest today. I would like to draw to the attention of the Legislature and our guests, particularly in light of the remarks of my colleague the new Leader of the Opposition, that it was over 80 years ago today that Newton Wesley Rowell entered this Legislature as Leader of the Opposition. We are particularly honoured to have in our chamber today his daughter, Mary Rowell Jackman, the mother of our distinguished Lieutenant Governor. I am sure all members would want to join me in paying tribute to her and to the very outstanding political, legal and juridical family that she represents.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Mr Cooke moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1547.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haack, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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# Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 7 April 1992

# Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

## Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mardi 7 avril 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





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## **Table des matières**

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Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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## **Numérotation du Journal des débats**

A partir du début de la deuxième session de la 35<sup>e</sup> législature, les pages et les numéros du Journal des débats sont numérotés par session au lieu de l'année civile. Les rapports de comités sont également numérotés à partir de la première séance de chaque comité pendant cette session parlementaire. La numérotation correspond donc à celle de Feuilleton et Avis et de Procès-verbaux ainsi qu'aux autres publications parlementaires au Canada.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 7 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## INTRODUCTION OF MEMBER FOR BRANT-HALDIMAND

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I beg to inform the House that the Clerk has received from the chief election officer and laid upon the table a certificate of a by-election in the electoral district of Brant-Haldimand:

This is to certify that, in view of a writ of election dated January 27, 1992, issued by the Honourable Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario, and addressed to Don Jones, returning officer for the electoral district of Brant-Haldimand, for the election of a member to represent the said electoral district of Brant-Haldimand in the Legislative Assembly of this province in the room of Robert Nixon, Esq. who, since his election as representative of the said electoral district of Brant-Haldimand, has resigned his seat, Ron Eddy has been returned as duly elected as appears by the return of the said writ of election, which is now lodged of record in my office.

(Signed) Warren R. Bailie, chief election officer; Toronto, March 13, 1992.

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** I have the honour to present to you Ron Eddy, member-elect for the electoral district of Brant-Haldimand, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** Let the honourable member take his seat.

## REPORT OF COMMISSION ON ELECTION FINANCES

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I beg to inform the House that on Thursday, February 27, the 15th report of the Commission on Election Finances containing recommendations with respect to the indemnities and allowances of the members of the Legislative Assembly was tabled with the Clerk's office.

## LEGISLATIVE PAGES

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I would invite all members to join me in welcoming the eighth group of pages to serve in the 35th Parliament of the Ontario Legislature:

Tori Barker, Northumberland; Robin Baweya, York Centre; Charlotte Brathwaite, Downsview; John Brooks, Simcoe Centre; Jennifer Charlton, Hamilton East; Cameron Couch, Oriole; Patrick Davis, Eglinton; Kimberley Forsythe, Algoma-Manitoulin; Ronald Fox, Yorkview; Erin Grainger, Durham Centre; Alain Habib, London South; Bruce Karn, Elgin; Terra Kitzul, Chatham-Kent; Jennifer Lawrance, Kenora; Aaron Lazarus, Windsor-Sandwich; Jason Lee, Oakville South;

Peter Levine, Quinte; Mark Linsao, Etobicoke-Lakeshore; Christopher Little, Middlesex; Cameron MacNiven, Grey; Andrea McNair, London North; Brianne

McVeigh, Simcoe East; Karl Murch, Parry Sound; Jason Nardari, Port Arthur; Cheryl Paton, Mississauga West; Brandon Sheppard, Norfolk; Amanda Sully, Carleton; Jos van Straaten, Wellington; Laurie Warden, Cornwall; Carrie Yakimovich, Scarborough East.

Would you please welcome our pages to our assembly.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### ECONOMIC POLICY

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** Last October, the Premier promised to eliminate finger-pointing, yet unbelievably, yesterday's speech from the throne was dominated by blaming the recession and the federal government for all of Ontario's ills. The speech offered no responsiveness and little immediate help for the unemployed people of Ontario.

Blaming the recession and the federal government for all his woes will not wash. Overspending by this government is a problem and the Premier knows it. He has raised spending to 19% of gross domestic product, an all-time high and fully 5% above the historic norm. No former government has come close.

The Premier is fooling no one. His runaway deficits are a real factor in slowing Ontario's recovery. His government has increased spending to an all-time high. The saddest part of it all is that they did it not because they had to but because they wanted to.

The NDP claims to be the champion of the poor and the unemployed and to have their support. After yesterday's speech, we now see what the Premier's strategy is. He's successfully working on his re-election campaign: the more poor and unemployed he can create, the better his chances.

Mr Premier, people want to cooperate with your government, but you are still giving us the banal policy of blame, bailout and bafflebag more appropriate to a banana republic.

1340

### CANCER MONTH

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I want to remind the members of this Legislature and residents across the province that April is Cancer Month in Ontario. Last Friday was Daffodil Day throughout Canada. I am delighted to report that some 6.2 million daffodils were sold and millions of dollars have been raised to fight a disease which accounts for one out of every four deaths in Canada. Daffodil Day began in Toronto almost 40 years ago when volunteers holding a fund-raising tea decided to decorate their tables with daffodils. It was felt these early spring blooms represented both hope and renewed life.

There is reason for hope. Most of the funds raised during Daffodil Day and Cancer Month go directly to research, and this research is producing positive results and advancements. In 1960, only three out of every 25



victims of childhood leukaemia survived. Today, 18 out of 25 will survive this dreaded disease. With each day, remarkable advances are being made in the detection and treatment of many types of cancer.

This is precisely why I would urge members of this distinguished assembly and all citizens of Ontario and across Canada to keep hope alive and join the fight to beat cancer. Let's band together during Cancer Month and help the Canadian Cancer Society meet its fund-raising target of \$24 million.

**Mr Robert Frankford (Scarborough East):** April is Cancer Month. The daffodils are a welcome sign of spring. Last Friday I took the opportunity to go around my riding of Scarborough East and visited a number of locations where volunteers for the Canadian Cancer Society were selling the flowers. In talking to the women and men and passersby, it was evident that many people whose own lives have been touched by this disease in others feel an urge to participate from a sense of duty.

They and all of us who have experienced the disease are expecting a number of things when donating. We would like a cure to be found, but we have to be realistic about the tantalizing complexities that keep turning up even as we get closer to understanding cell biology. We expect that some of the funds are used to investigate epidemiology, refining our knowledge of risk factors, if not causes. We expect counselling and education so the anxieties of facing the unknown are minimized for patients and their families. Along with the key role of doctors and hospitals, we want complementary services such as hospices and home care to be available wherever needed.

In expressing my appreciation to the volunteers, I would like to emphasize how important their participation and caring are at all stages. The important medical writer Dr Julian Tudor Hart reminds us that health care, all the way from diagnosis to terminal care, should be active production by patients and their families. I recall having the privilege of participating briefly in the domiciliary terminal care of a man with a brain tumour and found it particularly moving.

I am sure all members of this House will join me in expressing thanks and appreciation to all who selflessly involve themselves in alleviating this disease.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East):** My statement today is directed to the Minister of Education. The Ottawa Board of Education teachers have been on strike since March 23, leaving 23,000 high school students wondering about their future. Last week, the Carleton Board of Education went on strike. Those two strikes have consumed a total of 12,500 lost person-days. Your mediator has called the Ottawa Board of Education and its striking secondary school teachers back to the table to test their movements, if any. Your Premier, my Premier, was quoted as saying the hefty wage settlements are now out of reach. To me, that's a clear message. What will be your approach and the mediator's approach in the next few days? The students, parents and taxpayers in Ottawa-Carleton cannot wait for ever to resolve this painful situation in Ottawa-

Carleton. The school year of our students is at risk. We need your guidance. More than 20,000 students are running out of patience.

#### TARTAN DAY

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** I would like to thank everyone who assisted me in making Ontario's first Tartan Day such a success.

I would especially like to thank the Premier, who kindly recalled the House so that we could celebrate together. I am only sorry that he had so many other things to think about that he forgot his plaid tie.

The Lieutenant Governor deserves thanks for agreeing to be piped into the House in honour of the day, and I am grateful to George Henderson of the town of Dundas pipe band, who ably performed the task.

I was overwhelmed by the response which I received from municipalities advising me they had passed similar resolutions, and I am very appreciative of the support from private citizens as well as from many communities in my riding which held events with Scottish flair and colour over the last few days.

I would like to thank my colleagues from my caucus and from the government and the official opposition who got into the spirit of the day and brought us all a little closer together.

Finally, I would like to thank someone who would have loved to see Tartan Day but didn't quite make it. I met Andy MacDonald of the Brantford Highland Games because of my resolution. In a very short time he became a staunch supporter and a friend, and I know Tartan Day became the focal point of his life. My greatest hope is that yesterday and all April 6ths to come will meet and even surpass Andy's expectations.

#### NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ENGINEERING WEEK

**Mr David Winninger (London South):** I am pleased to rise in the House today to draw members' attention to the first National Festival of Engineering Week. The festival began yesterday and will run to April 11.

The festival is a celebration of engineering and an opportunity to tell Canadians about the many contributions engineers make to everyday life.

"Engineering our Future" is the festival theme and includes issues such as energy needs, health, transportation, communications, the environment and sustainable development and their linkages to our global competitiveness.

Festival of Engineering '92 events will include the release of the final report of the Canadian Committee on Women in Engineering. That committee was formed shortly after the tragedy at École polytechnique in Montreal. The report is expected to recommend ways to make women feel more welcome in the engineering profession.

The Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of Ontario, the regulatory body of the practice of professional engineering in Ontario, is directly involved in organizing the event through its Ottawa chapter.

Festival of Engineering Week recognizes professional engineers and their engineering accomplishments. I should also like to recognize two professional associations which

represent the views of engineers and engineering businesses: the Canadian Society for Professional Engineers, a member service organization, and the Consulting Engineers of Ontario, an organization which represents the commercial interests of the profession.

#### GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

**Mr John C. Cleary (Cornwall):** I'm pleased to note that the NDP government has finally confirmed an announcement made on May 14, 1990, by the former Liberal government for an Ontario government building to be located in Cornwall.

I might question the Minister of Government Services' method of informing the Cornwall NDP Riding Association of the announcement before details were made known to the public. Apparently the minister not only believes but also practises the saying, "Membership has its privileges."

In any event, the \$30-million building will be consolidating the provincial courts along with a variety of provincial government offices scattered throughout the region. While the NDP threw site selection into turmoil, the building will remain, as originally planned, in the downtown core where a hotel construction project was abandoned.

It is unfortunate to note that the NDP foot-dragging has delayed the completion date until 1995, a full 12 months behind the Liberal agenda.

As well, the former Liberal government had also promised to bring additional jobs to the Cornwall area by transferring a ministry, agency or department. While the Premier has failed to reaffirm that commitment, I hope an announcement will not be long in coming.

1350

#### POLICE SERVICES BOARDS

**Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville):** I bring to your attention a letter to members from the appointments coordinator of police services boards in the Ministry of the Solicitor General. The letter is most disturbing because it seeks applications from those citizens of Ontario whom the government would describe as being "politically correct."

The letter doesn't ask members of the House to submit names of local citizens whose background and experience would be especially suited for police board issues and responsibilities. Instead it seeks individuals whose "interests and attitudes reflect the government's commitment to community policing and employment equity."

One can only conclude from this letter that the individuals whom the government is seeking to appoint must be like-minded with current NDP philosophy. It is reasonable to conclude that these individuals will be scrutinized by the government to ensure that they're in tune with what the Premier wants, rather than what the community may really need. The result would be more police services boards representing interests that are reflective of the Susan Engs of the world, rather than the beliefs of the majority of citizens in these communities.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit names of citizens from my riding to serve on local police services boards, but I'm concerned that this exercise is nothing

more than window dressing, that the government won't heed the recommendations of opposition members and instead will select appointees who can pass the socialist litmus test. This approach doesn't bode well for policing in Ontario.

#### GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** Every young woman who has raised her three fingers in the Girl Guide Pledge recognizes the name of Mrs A. H. Malcolmson, founder of the Girl Guides of Canada in 1910 in St Catharines, Ontario.

For more years than I care to remember, young women all over Ontario have banded together for friendship and to experiment in arts, crafts, camping, outdoor activities, first aid, homemaking and sports. Today's Girl Guide organization is a giant national network that still embodies the vision of Mrs Malcolmson to provide a place where young women can direct their energies towards self-improvement and service to others. In addition, today's Girl Guides explore career opportunities and leadership training and they are also learning how to take their rightful place in today's changing society.

Today, seated in the members' gallery, are some of the Girl Guides from my riding, together with their very fine leaders. Their visit today is to allow them to see their provincial government members at work. Please join with me in welcoming the 1st Orono Girl Guides.

#### VISITORS

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Before continuing with routine proceedings, I would invite members to welcome to our midst this afternoon three former members, all seated in the members' gallery west: Vince Kerrio, Niagara Falls; Allan Furlong, Durham Centre, and David Smith, Lambton.

#### MEMBER FOR BRANT-HALDIMAND

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I hope the House will allow the representatives of the three parties to say a few words to welcome the newly elected member for Brant-Haldimand.

**Interjections:** Agreed.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Agreed.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I want to congratulate personally the honourable member, and on behalf of the government caucus tell him how much he is welcome here as a newly elected member, and say that he won in a by-election and he won in a way that could hardly be questioned. Certainly, speaking personally, I can say I did my best to make sure someone else was representing the riding, but I also say to him personally that I can recall the two days in which I was introduced to legislatures on by-election wins and I know the feeling of pride which he quite rightly has and his family has on this day.

I want to say on behalf of members of the government caucus that he is welcome here. I hope he enters into the spirit of cooperation and fair play, friendship and jocular



camaraderie that of course has always marked the debates in this House.

I say to him that I know as well he would want me on this day to say how much we have appreciated the contribution of his predecessor, and indeed his predecessors. The former member for Brant-Haldimand was a symbol of this Legislature for the time he served here. He is now, of course, a symbol of loyalty and good confidential advice to the first minister with respect to issues overseas. He is someone for whom we have only the fondest memories.

The honourable member will be serving in his own way, which I know will reflect well on his constituents. I simply want to welcome him and say how much we are looking forward to his participation in the debates in this House.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I too wish to welcome the member for Brant-Haldimand. I have not had the opportunity to shake his hand formally yet and to chat with him. I plan to do that today. I was in the Brant-Haldimand riding four or five times prior to his election, singing his praises, telling the people of Brant-Haldimand the kind of member I thought he would make should he be elected to represent them.

I want to echo some of the comments made by the Premier. We were pointing out perhaps the deficiencies that may have been there and exhorting the tremendous qualities of David Timms and the other candidates who were there. But the election is over. The member certainly did win, as the Premier said, fair and square and convincingly. I too remind the member that he is following in some very large footsteps that will long be remembered in this Legislature.

I remember the first day when I was first elected. It was not in a by-election. There were 22 of us across the back row. We were on that side at that time. We were part of this evolution: What goes around comes around. We are working our way back there. I had the company of 21 others in my caucus at that point in time. I can remember how nervous I was and how proud I was. There is a feeling in your stomach that this really is an honour and a privilege, and indeed in spite of the perception today in politics, it is a pleasure and it is an honour.

I want, on behalf of my caucus, to welcome the new member for Brant-Haldimand and wish him well. I am told by the member for Grey, who knows the member quite well, that not only are they planning a partnership in goat farming, perhaps even as I speak, but they will be planning partnerships in this Legislature as well because the member for Brant-Haldimand, like the member for Grey, is a rather free-spirited, commonsense free-thinker who will want to weigh the issues independent of party restriction and vote with his conscience and with his constituents. We welcome that too.

Welcome to the member for Brant-Haldimand.

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** Needless to say, I am absolutely delighted to join in welcoming our newest member in the Legislative Assembly. As the leader of the third party was remembering his moment of first election, and the nervousness and pride with which

you first take your seat, I was thinking of that same feeling. I can well recall that I was surrounded by an even larger support group of colleagues than the leader of the third party on the occasion of his election. Things do change.

The leader of the third party also spoke yesterday of the important support of family to any of us who serve in this elected assembly. With that in mind, before making a few comments about our newest member, I would like to acknowledge the presence of Janice his wife, his son Wes, and a niece, Leslie Wilkenson. He has another son, Mark, and a daughter, Allyson, who were not able to be with us today but who have been very much a part of Ron's political career as they were of his campaign. I know all members of his family will be providing ongoing support in a very real way. We know how important that is.

There have been three by-elections since my first election to this place. If I recall correctly, the first by-election was won by the Progressive Conservative Party, the second by-election was won by the New Democratic Party, and it seems only fitting that the third by-election would be won by the Liberal Party. I would suggest that any sense of rotation stop there.

1400

Of course, as the Premier has noted, the riding is considered to have been a long-time Liberal riding held by a very esteemed former colleague of ours. There was some question during the by-election about whether it was indeed a Liberal riding or a Bob Nixon riding. We are very pleased to have been able to confirm, with the results of the by-election, that it is indeed a Liberal riding and will now become a Ron Eddy riding for some long time to come.

There is just no question that the new member for Brant-Haldimand comes well prepared to make an invaluable contribution to our caucus and the work of this Legislative Assembly and will in fact be a very fine representative for the constituents of Brant-Haldimand. He has accepted the responsibilities for our caucus as associate critic of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Food, and he has an extensive background in both areas. He was reeve of South Dumfries township from 1978 to 1991, a Brant county councillor from 1978 to 1991 and served as warden of the county in 1981.

We look forward to the contributions he will make to our deliberations. Quite clearly, we will be well informed and aware in those areas, as in many others. We celebrate his election and look forward to sharing a long political career with him.

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I want to express my appreciation to the Premier, the leader of the Liberal caucus and the leader of the Progressive Conservative caucus for the best wishes they have extended to me. I deeply appreciate the kindnesses extended to me by many members of this House. I want you to know that I realize the deep responsibility I bear in being elected the member for Brant-Haldimand, in that I am reminded daily by many of my constituents of my many responsibilities. Thank you for welcoming me.

## MINISTER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights):** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I rise on a matter of some delicacy, but I think it is important that we get your ruling as early into this new session as possible. Parliamentary practice prohibits one member from calling or implying that another member is a liar. In fact, if a member does that and does not withdraw that remark, he is banished from the House by the Speaker with the aid of the Sergeant at Arms. We have a situation where the member for Sudbury East has admitted she is a liar. She has taken the unusual step of getting independent, scientific corroboration that in fact she is a liar. If we as members refer to her as a liar, will we incur the wrath of the Speaker, and if we do, why?

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I appreciate the matter the member has brought to my attention. He may know that it has been the subject of a committee's deliberations and that the remarks attributed to the member were not made in the House. Of course, whatever remarks are made are dealt with at the moment they are made. But I certainly appreciate the member's interest in this matter. No doubt he will be following the committee's deliberations on this matter as well.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

## UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is for the Premier. Yesterday 523,000 men and women may have been at home watching the throne speech who would rather have been employed. These 523,000 people, 9.9% of the workforce, would probably not have appreciated your throne speech commitment to take a longer view. These people want action now.

As the government was presenting its throne speech, 145 workers at Maple Leaf Mills in Brantford were still digesting the news their company gave them on Friday that their plant would be shutting its doors for the last time at the end of the day. Clearly we can't save those particular 145 jobs in Brantford as those numbers get added to the unemployment list, but would the Premier tell us how his throne speech offers any hope to the 523,000 people who are unemployed today?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I think the throne speech sets out very clearly not only an approach on the part of the government but sets out very clearly things that we are doing, things that we have done and things that we will do. I think it's very important perhaps for the Leader of the Opposition to recall that this past year this government had the largest capital budget, the largest works budget of any government in Canada and of any government in the history of Ontario: nearly \$4 billion of funding, over \$600 million of anti-recession funding. We've been told by people in the construction industry that if it wasn't for what we were doing in housing and if it wasn't for what we were doing in the anti-recession fund, construction would have been far worse off than it has been.

We have worked with the private sector in a number of examples. I could show you a number of examples where we have worked very hard, from General Electric to de Havilland, to Kapuskasing, to Algoma—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the Premier conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Rae:** —to create jobs and to save jobs. We've set out very clearly the need for workers, business and industry to work together, and I think in terms of the investment we are making, the investment we are encouraging others to make and the work we are doing together as a province that in fact there is cause for hope in terms of a recovery in this province. It's going to take time and it's going to take work, but it is being done.

**Mrs McLeod:** I appreciate the note of optimism in the Premier's response, and once again he takes a longer view. Looking back and commenting on the short-term job creation of capital projects, we can be appreciative that some provided some relief in a rather desperate situation, although we wonder about the \$700-million anti-recession fund having become a \$400-million fund over the course of that time.

What I would really like to do is to keep taking the Premier back to specifics, to talk about real people and real programs, so I would like to return to the concrete, real-life experiences of people in the community of Brantford, which I just happen to be focusing on this afternoon. The Premier will be well aware that the community of Brantford has endured a very long period of industrial decline and it continues to face some very real economic challenges. But this community has taken on those challenges, and since 1989 the community has been running a program that assists people on social assistance to find work, to create small businesses and ultimately to create jobs. The program, as of January 1992, had a 94% success rate. Would the Premier, then, explain why on Friday, April 3, 1992, a letter was received by Business Initiatives Unlimited of Brantford informing it that the funding for a training program it offers will be cut?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I would obviously have to see the correspondence which she is referring to. I can only say to the honourable member that when it comes to training across the province we are now investing more than any government has before, and we will be investing even more in the years ahead.

The Leader of the Opposition cannot have it both ways. She knows full well that she, as leader of her party, and members of her party comment all the time—in fact, the member for Ottawa West was on his feet today saying how the deficit was out of control; he was saying the deficit was the problem. Now Liberals are saying this.

The Leader of the Opposition and members of the Liberal Party cannot be doctor both ways for the rest of their time. They have to make up their minds. We have to indicate very clearly that on the capital side we're going to be making investments, and we're going to have to be doing whatever we can to bring things under control.



1410

**Mrs McLeod:** It is precisely because we want to offer responsible opposition on this side of the House that I am asking the Premier about his government's own stated commitments. I want to come back to the real situation so we can get past the rhetoric and on to the reality.

The particular program in Brantford that I've asked the Premier about—I appreciate the fact he may have to look into the details of it, but there is an issue here that I want to bring to his attention and to the attention of his government—assisted 53 individuals to start 49 businesses through the self-employment incentive option. As of January 1, 1992, there were 45 businesses operating and they employed 74 people.

The rationale for the cut is, and I offer it to the Premier as I would not expect him to be aware of the specific situation, but I quote from the letter sent to the program: "It is unfortunate that we must take this action, as we are aware of the excellent results achieved by the projects. The ministry, however, as well as the entire provincial government, is experiencing severe financial constraints."

Fair enough, but I remind the Premier of the statement in his own speech from the throne. One of the most positive aspects of the speech from the throne was a commitment to a new training strategy that will put social assistance recipients and workers whose unemployment insurance has run out back to work.

The people of Brantford were already doing what the government said it intends to do. How can the Premier rationalize the action of cutting this program in light of all the fine words in the speech from the throne? The words just don't meet with the action.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I will obviously look into the very specific example which the Leader of the Opposition has raised. But I want to make it very clear to the members of the Liberal Party and of the House that we are fully committed to extending the job training work of the government and of groups across the province. That is precisely what this government is committed to. That is what we have done. We can show you chapter and verse across the province where that is exactly what has taken place.

#### INVESTMENT IN ONTARIO

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question again is for the Premier. Again I return to the statements and commitments that were made in the speech from the throne yesterday, a speech in which the Premier talked about creating a flourishing business climate in Ontario. I think the Speaker and his government acknowledged in that speech from the throne that the best way to create the jobs he has just been talking about wanting to create is indeed through that flourishing business sector. The companies, that flourishing business sector that is needed, say, on the other hand, that they need a favourable climate for investment.

So we look at the speech from the throne to ask, in what way does this create a favourable climate for investment? The government indicates it wants such things as the Ontario pension fund, which the pension fund holders are not so sure they want. It wants a worker buyout bill,

which won't create new jobs. But it seems to contain nothing to restore investor confidence in this province. So I would just ask the Premier if he can tell us precisely what his economic plan will do to restore investor confidence in Ontario. What message did the Premier want the business community to take from his throne speech yesterday?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** It is very clear that with respect to training, with respect to dealing with the regulatory gridlock which this government inherited not just from the honourable member's government but from previous governments, this is a reality we have to contend with. We also have to do everything we can to see that government and industry are working together.

We can find the practical examples. The member spoke disparagingly in her question of the Ontario investment fund and of the worker ownership plan, but I want to say to the honourable member that I look forward to a debate in which the Liberal Party of Ontario says we don't need more capital investment, we don't need to encourage pension funds to invest in Ontario. I look forward to the Liberal Party going up to Spruce Falls, going into Kapuskasing and going into Sault Ste Marie and saying it's opposed to worker ownership, when that was the only option that saved not a few hundred jobs but thousands of jobs. Let the Liberal Party take that message into those communities.

**Mrs McLeod:** I can appreciate why the Premier would prefer to avoid the thrust of the question. The thrust of the question that I want him to address today is how in fact his government can create the kind of climate for investor confidence that will ensure that companies don't fail in the province of Ontario and that we can attract new investment. So let's get back to the specifics, to the reality.

Last year over 3,600 businesses across Ontario declared bankruptcy and hundreds more left this province because of this government's policies. Right now businesses are making critical investment decisions and, quite frankly, many of them are looking at other jurisdictions that seem more attractive as places to do business.

I would like to take the Premier's attention to the centrepiece of the NDP agenda, the proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. In the throne speech, the government clearly indicates that it is going to proceed with the legislation despite the fact that a great deal of public uncertainty exists about the wisdom of the initiative. Business has said it is worried about the directions of the policies of the government, that they contribute to a widespread sense of insecurity.

Given the stated concern of the Premier for the economic renewal of this province—and his throne speech is a clear indication that a strong business sector is essential to that economic development—can he explain why his government is committed to going forward with this legislation in spite of all the expressed concerns?

**Hon Mr Rae:** For a very simple reason. The reason labour relations reform is crucial is because there are too many people—many of them women, many of them new Canadians—who have been left out of the prosperity of

the 1980s. They did not get to benefit from the paper entrepreneurialism and the paper profits which were the feature of the Peterson years and the Peterson government, of which the honourable member was such a strong supporter.

As we head into the 1990s and as we head into a more realistic era, we have to ensure that women and the people who are newly arrived in Canada have the same access to organizing and the same access to collective bargaining as people did in the 1940s and the 1950s, the 1960s and the 1970s. We believe it is an important aspect of a human right for people to be able to collectively bargain and to establish more effectively their relationship at the table.

We think the time for union-bashing and for saying unions have no place in the role of a modern economic state is over. It is time for management and labour to sit down at the same table and work things out. That is why we are doing it.

**Mrs McLeod:** I guess the frustration for us on this side of the House is to understand why the government seems so unable to relate one question, one set of initiatives, to the next question and the next set of initiatives. This question is about all those people who need a more equal opportunity. It is about the 536,000 people who are sitting at home, unemployed, because there are not jobs for them to go to. That is why we are concerned about business confidence. That is why we are concerned about whether or not there will be investment in this province, and according to the throne speech, that is what this government's concerns are supposed to be.

The frustration is that the government simply doesn't understand how much damage this proposed legislation can do. Most people in the province believe that far from encouraging the kind of cooperation and the kinds of partnerships which the Premier has just talked about, the proposed changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act will actually undermine confidence in the economy and will harm our competitiveness. According to recent public opinion polls, the vast majority of Ontario residents want the government to abandon the proposed amendments and concentrate on improving the economy in the province.

I once again ask the Premier to explain precisely how the proposed changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act, which he has just outlined so positively, will actually reinvigorate the private sector and encourage it to invest in Ontario and in the workers of this province.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The Leader of the Opposition is trying to suggest that the right to organize is somehow antithetical to the economic prosperity of this province. If that is the position of the Liberal Party, that is a new one on me. I always thought the Liberal Party—going back to David Croll in the 1930s—was a party that was more prepared to walk with the workers and more concerned about walking with the workers than anything else. Now we have the Liberal Party showing its true colours in the 1990s; that is to say, that even to mention the word “organize” or the word “bargain” all of a sudden is going to be bad for business.

Let's look at the facts. The facts show that on February 27, 1992, Statistics Canada released a report showing, with

respect to investment plans in Ontario and manufacturing and equipment spending for 1991, \$20,356,000,000; for 1992, \$21,050,000,000—a 3.5% increase in expected and anticipated investment, which is comparable to investment plans right across the country. I say to the honourable member that she had better get her facts straight and not simply listen to the billboard rhetoric with which she's so clearly become infatuated since her election as a leader.

1420

#### ECONOMIC POLICY

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Premier. I don't want to engage in billboard rhetoric. In asking this question, I am not, as you have accused the Liberals, union-bashing. Quite frankly, I'm not interested in hearing you business-bash. What we are interested in are the 500,000-plus men and women in Ontario who do not have jobs, for whom you signed extended pink slips yesterday with your war games approach to reforming labour laws.

Premier, there is no question that your approach—without getting into the specifics, not bashing anybody—will cost this province investment and jobs. Business has called on you and labour to work together with it to establish a tripartite task force. Will you today reconsider their offer to work cooperatively, not only on labour law reforms and amendments, but on the other issues of job creation, job retention, good-paying jobs, and allow them to be truly one-third equal partners with labour and you and come to the table and work cooperatively to seek the reforms that we all want in this province?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** That's exactly what we're doing. The Premier's Council on Economic Renewal, if I recall correctly, has certainly got more than one-third business participation. It has a broad cross-section of people involved. I've asked Mr Michael List, who's the vice-president of Semi-Tech, to head up a task force on investment. I've asked Mr Curlook from Inco and Leo Gerard to work closely on the organization of work. The president of a subsidiary of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is working hard on lifelong learning.

I particularly want to tell the honourable member that I agree with him entirely that we do have to have people from all sectors working together very hard on all aspects of government policy. That's exactly what we're doing. That's exactly what's happening. With respect to industrial strategies, with respect to job creation, it's the Premier's Council on Economic Renewal that I have asked to do this work. I'm very pleased to tell the member that the Premier's Council members have been working very hard. They're coming up with some very good studies, very good work and very good proposals for the government. We intend to take them very seriously.

**Mr Harris:** I suggest to the Premier that this province, the unemployed, and those who are concerned about keeping their jobs cannot afford nine or 10 months of an elevation of the rhetoric on the union side or by some of those on the business side. We cannot afford that, regardless



of what you think of the individual issues. That absolutely must be stopped.

The fact of the matter is that in proceeding you are ignoring that seven years of Liberal and NDP policies have skyrocketed the costs of doing business in this province. You continue to follow down that same path. That seems to be your solution. You continue your anti-business attitude. You continue to fan and fuel the flames of discontent between two sides that must be brought together. Premier, we need cooperation; we don't need more finger-pointing.

I ask you, for the sake of the 500,000-plus unemployed, the million or so who are on social assistance, those who are concerned about losing their jobs, those who want to better themselves in the jobs they have, to scrap this confrontational approach, to sit down with business and bring labour—because you can do it, you can bring business and labour to the table and talk about jobs for this province before any more damage is done.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I say to the honourable member that I agree very much with the second half of his question. I do not see its connection to the first.

I think responsible reform of our industrial relations has got to be part and parcel of the extraordinary changes that are going on in the workplace today and of the amount of industrial change that is happening. I think it's got to be seen as part of the package which we pull together.

I say to the honourable member that if he can do anything on his side to discourage an atmosphere of confrontation and crisis creation, I would appreciate his using whatever influence he can. Certainly, from our perspective, we're doing everything we can to be positive and constructive and to put things in a positive light with respect to the possibilities of real reform in the province. That's what we're trying to do. We may disagree with respect to one or two pieces of legislation, but I don't think any of us disagree on the need for us to create a prosperous province.

**Mr Harris:** The Premier says he's doing everything he can and I say to him the business community is saying there's one more thing he can do. He can try to find the solutions that will allow us to cooperatively move business, labour and government forward in the years ahead. He can try to find those solutions, whether they're labour legislation changes or other changes in how we operate, by doing that in a cooperative fashion and setting that example right up front. Business will come to the table and labour will come to the table if he asks them to do it. That really is what we're calling on you to do today.

In the throne speech yesterday you sent a clear signal that investment isn't coming to this province and that those here are looking elsewhere and those outside aren't—

Interjection.

**Mr Harris:** Well, your throne speech said: "We're going to get into the pension money. We're going to borrow. The government is going to subsidize." You as much as admitted that the private sector, which has a free choice, doesn't find this province a lucrative place in which to do business, invest and create jobs.

Now I ask you, because you can help to send out this signal, why won't you take the same cooperative, tripartite

approach of Michael Harcourt, the NDP Premier of British Columbia, and bring business, labour and government to the table in a tripartite, cooperative way? It has labour and business singing his praises and really has the support of the province to find the fundamental changes that will allow us to work more cooperatively. Why won't you take the Michael Harcourt approach instead of the Bob Rae confrontational approach?

**Hon Mr Rae:** If I can be very direct with the leader of the third party, the government of British Columbia is in fact studying and working on labour relations reform, and we're doing it cooperatively too.

We've had meetings of the Premier's Council. We've had the lengthiest consultation with respect to the proposals. I can't recall a piece of legislation that has had as much discussion and consultation. Obviously the package that is presented to the House will be very much based on the need for us to listen to the people and learn from what they're saying.

The member keeps saying, "Bring people to the table." That's exactly what I started doing on September 7, 1990.

**Mr Harris:** You brought part of this province to the table and you excluded the other part of this province. The private sector part of this province hasn't had an equal place at the table.

1430

#### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My second question is also to Buffalo's man of the year, the Premier of our province. Last year, 882 retail businesses in Ontario went bankrupt. Thousands of other retail businesses shut their doors, throwing thousands of people out of work, most of them women.

Premier, yesterday you could have saved thousands of retail jobs in this province at no cost to the taxpayer. I would ask you, will you today not only undo the damage but restore as well several thousand jobs to the retail sector, jobs you have lost, jobs that have been threatened, jobs we continue to lose because both you and the Liberals, on the issue of Sunday shopping, will not allow workers who wish to work, consumers who wish to shop and businesses who wish to open to do so on Sunday?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I just want to say to the honourable member that, again, I would ask him to put some things in perspective. The retail industry across North America, indeed the retail industry now in Europe, is suffering severe change. The retail industry across North America, regardless of jurisdiction with respect to what the hours may be in one particular state or province or another, is going through a serious change.

I would say to the honourable member that when he thinks there is a one-on-one connection between what the hours of opening are going to be with respect to any one day of shopping or another and what is happening in the retail industry, you've got to look at the GST, you've got to look at the general recession, you've got to look at the

ways the consumers are choosing differently and the way discount stores are taking over, you've got to look at a whole range of things in terms of coming up with an effective strategy, and that is what we are trying to do.

**Mr Harris:** I guess I would like the Premier—

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** What are you going to do about the gasoline tax? What are you going to do to lower the gasoline tax?

**Mr Harris:** Listen, I understand the Liberals support them on closing Sundays and having this ridiculous municipal option, but there are some in this province who think there are other alternatives. I say this to the Premier: A recent survey found that 74% of those who shuffle off to Buffalo on Sundays would spend their money in Ontario if stores were allowed to open on Sundays.

I suggest to you that, yes, there are other things out there causing difficulty in the retail sector, but this is one you have exclusive control over. This is one you as Premier can do something about. Every single Sunday you refuse to allow stores to open, we are losing tax revenue, we are losing business and we are losing jobs—the Retail Council of Canada says up to 50,000 jobs if those 74% of people would stay in Ontario on Sundays. They are saying to me, "When is Buffalo Bob going to take the first step in stopping this retail haemorrhage and prove he's truly committed to jobs and economic activity in this province and allow those to open who wish to open and those to work who wish to work?" When will you take that step and demonstrate that commitment to Ontario workers?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I want to congratulate the leader of the Conservative Party for so effectively avoiding the bill-board rhetoric he promised us in his first set of questions, but I would say to the honourable member—

**Mr Harris:** That was then; this is now.

**Hon Mr Rae:** "That was then; this is now." I understand. That was five minutes ago; this is now. I understand that.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I am sure the member for London North is now fully supportive of the question that is being posed.

But let me say to the leader of the third party: The fastest-growing period in the cross-border shopping problem, which is a real problem, happened to occur in that period of time when stores were more open in Ontario than at any other time. That is a curious fact which seems to fly in the face of the premise of the question.

I will only say to the leader of the third party that we are obviously looking at all the facts. We are discussing very intensively with people in the retail sector what we can do on a number of issues, and we will be responding to that.

**Mr Harris:** I have not pretended that opening Sundays will stop and correct the whole cross-border shopping problem. I didn't say that. I'm dealing with the part of the problem that occurs now on Sundays. I'm dealing with the 74% of the people who are going across the border on

Sundays saying: "We'd stay home. We'd stay in Ontario if we could shop in Ontario on Sundays." That's the group we are talking about. That alone is 50,000 jobs in this province. When are you going to send some hope out to those 50,000 workers who don't have jobs today who could have if you'd move with the times and recognize what's going on in this province?

**Hon Mr Rae:** We have worked very closely with local chambers in all of the border communities.

**Mrs Caplan:** No. You've done nothing.

**Hon Mr Rae:** No. We have initiated several programs which have been quite effective in pointing out to consumers the advantages of staying at home to shop. We have done everything we can to persuade consumers that the option of staying here is the option that makes the most sense, that many of the savings people think they are going to be getting cross-border are not really there. We are working in a most cooperative way both with cross-border communities and with cross-border chambers, and we are going to continue to do that.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** My question is to the Minister of Education and it concerns the two strikes in Ottawa and Carleton. Minister, I want you to focus on the human dimension of these two strikes, particularly the 27,000 students, some 12,000 of whom have now been without education for over two weeks, the rest of whom have been out for almost a week now.

Minister, in doing that, I want you to think about and put yourself in the place of the average student, the average student in his or her final year who is seeking to get to university or to community college. I want you to put yourself in the place of the special needs student or the parents of special needs students, and I want you to think about what they are facing.

The question, Minister, is: What specifically are you, as the representative of the government that said this year there would be a 1% transfer payment to school boards, saying to ensure that those two disputes are going to be resolved? What are you saying to the Education Relations Commission about bringing the parties together in seeking a solution? What specifically are you doing to ensure that those young people are back in the classroom where they need to be?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Education):** I appreciate very much the question and the sentiments behind the question, because the sentiments the member has expressed have been exactly the kind of sentiments that have been in my mind in looking at this issue and in monitoring very closely what has been happening. I think he will appreciate, as other members will appreciate, that there has to be a continuing respect for the collective bargaining process and the relationship that exists at the local level between the school board and the teachers' federations here in this instance.

I am continuing on a daily basis to be kept up to date on what is happening. I continue to express my concerns,



publicly and privately, about the inability so far of the parties to come together and resolve the dispute. I continue to monitor the situation very closely through the Education Relations Commission, which, as the member knows, has the responsibility for not only monitoring the situation but assisting the parties to come together. It is obviously their role to advise me at a particular point in time if they feel that is impossible to do.

**Mr Beer:** I am sure everybody appreciates the sentiments the minister has expressed, but sentiments are not going to help these young people either in moving on to university or to college, moving into that next grade level, or, if they have special needs, ensuring they get the kind of education they are going to require to go on in life.

The question then becomes, if the minister says we must respect the collective bargaining procedures, and I am sure we all do, at what point then, Minister, do you believe that the education of these young people is in jeopardy? As the minister knows, that is the critical consideration the Education Relations Commission has to take. The minister was a member of a school board. The minister was the chair of the Board of Education for the City of Toronto. I think we would like to know and the people of this province would like to know, just how long is he prepared to see these young people out of the classroom? Until Easter? Until May 24th? Until June 28th? When, Minister, will the education of these young people be in jeopardy and when will you ensure that they get back into the classroom?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I think the member will appreciate the fact that I cannot give him a specific date and that, in fact, to do so would be completely inappropriate. That is a decision and a call I will have to make at some point and that the cabinet may have to make. I, quite frankly, hope that it does not have to come to that.

I have said very clearly and can restate here in the House that no matter what happens I will do everything necessary to ensure that the education of our students in that area of the province is not affected in terms of either the school year with respect to students going on to post-secondary education or indeed with respect to meeting the special needs of some of the students.

I also think the solutions are there. As the member may well know, we have just reached a settlement with our own teachers who teach in the provincial schools in a package that I think, on the monetary level of 2.5% of the first year and 1.67% over the second year, going back to September of last year, plus some other benefits and other improvements, provides a reasonable package for people in that instance and also some guidance for people out there if they choose to see that.

1440

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** I have a question for the Minister of Education. Like my colleague from York North, you are very much aware, as are other members of the House, that the school systems are in chaos right now across this province, not just to do with strikes but to do with program cuts and teacher cuts.

The reason I say that is that on January 21 you told the boards they had transfer payments for the next three years of 1%, 2% and 2%, when the boards have enforced, with their options, increases of 1%, 2% and 2%.

The boards right now are cutting programs, they are cutting staff, and they have told you, Minister, that they have no other options. You are criticizing them for the positions they are taking. You are criticizing them for saying that these programs are being cut. You are speaking on behalf of the trustees and parents, you are saying they are making the wrong cuts and that you have better ideas.

You used the word "solutions" earlier today in responding to the first question. Why don't you give the solutions to the boards so they can implement them now, today, and show some leadership? What are your solutions?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Education):** I would have to say that I remain concerned and worried about some of the actions school boards have taken, very specifically in terms of some of the decisions around the reduction of programs and reduction of staff.

We have recognized that the low transfer payments are causing some problems out there. We also recognize that there are other solutions. We have talked to people about some of those solutions. In fact, we are putting in place some procedures, and by forcing boards to cooperate on an administrative level we believe there can be reductions in costs on administrative and other levels. Indeed, we have also said to school boards and teachers' federations that they need to be addressing the question of salaries and other issues related to compensation, which we know account for large parts of school board budgets. Those are issues that need to be addressed.

We met just yesterday with representatives of school boards, teachers' federations and support staff unions to talk about the way in which the transition funds, which we still have to outline, can be used to assist with that process, and we will continue to talk with them about that.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The minister says he is concerned about what the school boards have done. I can tell you that the parents and students of this province are concerned about what you have done. I can tell you right now that you have a lot of choices in solutions to problems. I'll give you one today and you can tell me what you're going to do about it. Let's hear from you.

On the whole issue of new programs that are being mandated by the ministry—September 1994, junior kindergarten; 1993, integration and destreaming—those are your programs, and if you want them, Minister, you should pay for them 100%.

My question to the minister is clearly this: Will you put a moratorium on those mandatory program requirements that you thought up in your office without asking the public? In spite of saying you are monitoring and listening, will you put a moratorium on, because that's what they've asked you to do, and stand up in this House and tell us you're going to do it today?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I have to express some surprise at the member's question with respect to indicating that issues

like destreaming and junior kindergarten are issues that I've thought up in my office, when they've been in public discussion for four or five years now. Let's be really clear about that.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Apology accepted.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** Having said that, I was about to say that I have no hesitation in taking credit for pursuing those issues and other program reform issues because I believe wholeheartedly that they are important to the kind of progress we want to bring about in education.

On the money side, we continue to provide funding for the development of kindergarten initiatives. We have said very clearly, and I have no hesitation in reiterating today, that with respect to the destreaming initiatives, we will put in place appropriate retraining provisions for teachers in conjunction with teachers' federations. We have already had some discussions with them about that.

We recognize very clearly that the funding system as a whole is inadequate, needs to be revamped and needs to be changed. That is why we have speeded up the process of reform of our education finance process to a point that will hopefully give us an ability to start making some changes, even as of next year.

#### ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED

**Mr Gary Malkowski (York East):** My question is for the honourable Attorney General. The Ministry of the Attorney General has announced a toll-free number which persons with disabilities will be able to call about barrier-free courts. Can the honourable minister explain just how this service is going to work and what disabled people can expect when they call through?

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** I would like to thank the member for this very important question. It is true that we have announced a toll-free number for all individuals who suffer from disabilities in terms of access to public buildings. It is a 1-800 number that is operated by the Ontario Office for Disability Issues. This office has been given a data bank on all of the province's courts which shows whether they are accessible.

If the court to which a disabled person has been summoned is not accessible and he calls this number, he will be given advice as to the nearest courts which are accessible and the services that can be provided to him. We want to assure individuals who are suffering from a particular disability that we will do the most we can to ensure access to our courts.

**Mr Malkowski:** Can the minister tell me what is being done to make sure that all of the courts in fact become barrier-free?

**Hon Mr Hampton:** As the honourable member will know, not all of the courts in Ontario are accessible at this time. Only about 18% of the court facilities are in fact owned by the government, and through the Ministry of Government Services we are doing our utmost to ensure that those that are not accessible will become accessible over the next couple of years.

With respect to the facilities that are leased by the government, when it comes time for renewal of the lease, we ask that the landlord ensure or undertake to make the building accessible; otherwise we search for new facilities which are accessible. Over the next two years we believe that all of the court facilities in Ontario will become accessible to individuals suffering from disabilities.

#### EDUCATION POLICY

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** My question is to the Minister of Education. When the minister was appointed to the position of Minister of Education, I think there was a sense of optimism felt among the school boards around the province, certainly in my own community, a feeling that a person who had been a member of a school board for 12 years in a large city would understand the difficulties and the problems that the school boards face with funding.

Interjections.

**Mr Mahoney:** I am particularly interested in how excited the Tories get over these issues when I am not sure what they want; they want to eliminate JK or whatever.

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** Spend, spend.

**Mr Mahoney:** They do a good enough job on their own.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Mr Mahoney:** I do like getting them excited, Mr Speaker. You forgive me.

**The Speaker:** Perhaps you could place your question.

**Mr Mahoney:** My question to the minister is that he recognizes the difficulty the school boards are having, that communities are upset. You are quoted as saying that you were not particularly happy about reports about layoffs; you felt there were alternatives. Today you apparently have said in media interviews that it's irresponsible for the Peel board to cut junior kindergarten.

They have a \$20-million shortfall in their cut program. How do you answer the people at the board? How do you answer my constituents who are calling to say their 6,000 kids are going to be out of junior kindergarten next year, that 125 teachers working in that program are going to be out of work next year, and you're doing absolutely nothing? What advice do you give me to tell them about these program cuts?

1450

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Education):** The advice I would offer the member is to do whatever he can to get the school board to look at other ways in which it can manage its fiscal problems. What I am doing specifically with the situation in Peel is that I have written to the chair of the board asking to meet, and I gather he is interested in meeting with me to discuss the actions the board has taken.

I can reiterate, as the member has said, that I find the action irresponsible. I believe there are other ways these things can be handled and I don't think that, at a time when we as a province are moving towards broadening



junior kindergarten, it makes a great deal of sense for a school board to be cutting back on that particular program.

**Mr Mahoney:** First of all, I am quite confident Mr Kent would be delighted to meet with you, but I think he is a little frustrated because it's quite apparent to him that the meeting is going to be useless and that you don't have any suggestions.

You have talked about other programs. Are you suggesting they lay people off? When they propose to do that, you say you don't want them to do that, that there must be other ways. When they cut programs, you call them irresponsible.

Minister, you are supposed to be leading this province in the area of education. You are supposed to be directing and giving ideas to the school boards about how they can solve their problems. The bottom line of all this is not the elected officials on the Peel board and it is not you and your mandarins in the ministry. It's the kids who are going to suffer as a result of your ignoring their plight.

Now the people are marching in the streets in Peel. They are organizing demonstrations. They have invited you to a television program tomorrow night. I'm sure it hasn't even filtered down to you, and I'm also sure you won't go. I'll be there and I'd like to give them some answers from you. Are you prepared to look, with the Peel Board of Education, at a creative way in which it can maintain junior kindergarten, or are you simply going to sit back and fiddle while these kids are taken out of school and then are going to have to look for day care or other alternatives? Minister, we'd like some answers.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I've been talking to school boards, including a meeting I had in February at the headquarters of the Peel board. We talked about a range of things we were going to be able to do and were going to try to do, from the issue of the transition funds, which we are working on, as I've indicated in response to an earlier question, to the question of capital spending, which I know is an area that will interest the Peel board very much. We have indicated that we are looking at some innovative ways which we think will be of some use to the school boards in that area.

Particularly with respect to JK, as I've indicated, I've said time after time that we are more than happy to look at creative alternatives to the standard way of providing junior kindergarten. I'm happy to say to the member that at least one school board, the Grey County Board of Education, has taken up that offer. It has put forward to us a proposal which we think makes a great deal of sense and which is now being developed in consultation between that school board and our ministry officials.

So there are lots of possibilities out there, among which I would include the need for school boards to sit down with their employee groups and, within the confines of the fiscal situation we are living in, to look at the range of possibilities that are there. They know what those answers are.

#### ECONOMIC POLICY

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** My question is to the Treasurer of Ontario, who, I might add, now issues his fiscal forecasts with best-before dates on them.

Yesterday it was announced by your government that you were planning to implement what were described as "stringent financial measures." The last time I heard you were implementing stringent financial measures, the deficit was at \$9.7 billion.

Can I ask you, Treasurer, if these stringent financial measures include wage caps of 1% and 2%? It seems to me that you would help your Minister of Education out if you could implement these kind of wage caps that would solve the financial crisis for the hospitals, school boards etc. It is a reasonable request heard right around this province. Considering that you are looking at a \$14-billion or \$15-billion deficit next year, people are being laid off, hospital sections are being closed and schools are in desperate need, why not a 1%, 2% and 2% wage cap?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I appreciate the question from the member and indeed welcome all members back to the assembly to what I think is going to be a very important session. I would take the member back a little bit in time, if you will indulge me, Mr Speaker. Earlier this year, and even last year, there were suggestions from the Conservative caucus that there should be those kinds of wage caps on the Ontario public service as well. This government felt that we did not want to do that and that it was an indication of a last resort that we did not think was appropriate.

We sat down with the civil servants of this province. We negotiated in a very tough way on both sides, and the public service of this province saw itself as part of the solution, not just part of the problem, and worked out an arrangement with the government in which it is going to get a 1% wage increase this year and a 2% increase next year. I say to the member for Etobicoke West that I do not believe that kind of heavy-handed approach is appropriate, unless, of course, it is totally the last resort. I have no reason to believe we have reached that kind of impasse, and we want to work things out in a much more creative way.

**Mr Stockwell:** When do we reach the final last resort? You can't hold the line on your record \$9.7-billion deficit; you are talking about a \$14-billion or \$15-billion deficit next year. We have hundreds of thousands of Ontarians out of work. When is the desperate time, Treasurer? When do we reach that point in time when it becomes plainly obvious that some desperate, imaginative—for your party—alternatives need to be examined?

I don't know when that point is, but the people of Ontario are asking, "Why can't we have a broader public sector cap of 1%, 2% and 2%?" Treasurer, people are happy to have a job today, let alone an increase. Why can't you ask the broader public sector? Bail out the hospitals, bail out the schools, bail out the taxpayers. Tell the broader public sector to accept 1%, 2% and 2%. It's very simple and, sir, may I add, it would resolve many of your problems.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I find the member's suggestions not creative and not imaginative at all. It's just an instinctive reaction on the part of the Conservative Party in this province. It's nothing more than that.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I will try and give a serious response to what I think is a serious question, and I hope that members opposite will give me the opportunity to do that.

I believe the member will acknowledge the fact that the Ontario public service, the hospital workers, the Hydro workers, negotiated a good agreement with this government. I wish the member for Etobicoke West would stop making the assumption that if somebody works in the public sector in this province, he or she is the enemy of the people. This is simply not the case. They are out there doing very hard work under very difficult conditions, at least as difficult conditions as the ones under which the member opposite toils. We are determined to do what we can to make sure negotiations go on with everyone in the broader public sector in this province in the fairest way possible that does not abandon the collective bargaining process.

1500

#### ONTARIO TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD

**Mr Brad Ward (Brantford):** My question is for the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development. The people of Brantford fully support the initiative shown by our government when it comes to the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. In fact, if this initiative had been in place under previous Liberal or Conservative governments, perhaps the workers who lost their jobs when Massey and White went down would have had training opportunities and programs to re-enter the job market as quickly as possible.

Although we do support this initiative wholeheartedly, we have some concern about the boundaries of the local committees that will be formed out of this initiative in conjunction with the federal government. Can the minister tell us how these boundaries were determined and what criteria were used?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development):** The member has indeed touched on a question of significant debate in the consultations that are taking place around the local board structures. We proposed a map with boundaries on it because we wanted to have a focused and intelligent discussion around something, a map to talk to rather than something blank where everybody would then end up proposing boundaries that were all over the map, literally speaking.

There were very clear criteria used to establish those boundaries: for example, population movement and work patterns; the nature of the economy and the region; the actual institutions that presently exist to deliver training like Canada employment centre boundaries; or the college catchment areas. Half a dozen labour market characteristics were used to set up the boundaries. It was done very responsibly and very carefully. I know the member has some concerns in his own area and I would be happy to respond to him on this and further questions on this issue.

**Mr Ward:** With regard to the issue of the boundaries as far as the local committees being formed through the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board in conjunction with the federal government are concerned, the people of Brantford, the trainers who put on the programs for the citizens of the Brantford and Brant areas, feel that we have more in common with the citizens of Haldimand than we perhaps have with the citizens of Hamilton. They are working very hard in consultation with your ministry and with the OTAB project itself. What they are considering and are hopeful for is that there may be some possibility of having the boundaries changed. Is that a reasonable request to be looked at?

**Hon Mr Allen:** For example, Perth-Huron is also interested in being associated with Grey-Bruce; they are not, on the present map now. I am very interested in hearing the results of the local board consultations, which will be reporting back to me in about a month and a half. At that point I will be interested particularly in hearing the information they have picked up around the validity of the board structures that are proposed and the boundaries they think would work better in their regions.

I am quite happy to look at that, but there is one critical question. In order to put in place a single structure of federal-provincial boards for single-stop shopping around training, it is critically important for us to honour an agreement we have with the federal government. That agreement requires that we not exceed the mid-20s in boards. We cannot go on adding boards endlessly in order to meet the boundary problems that people have concerns with at this point in time.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Will the minister conclude his response, please?

**Hon Mr Allen:** I am happy to respond to the concerns, but I will also have to honour an agreement somewhere else.

#### HOSPITAL BEDS

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** My question is to the Minister of Health. I want to ask the minister about a local hospital problem. The Willett Hospital in the town of Paris opened its doors in 1922 and has provided great care since then. Over the years it has encountered a number of obstacles that have threatened its existence. In 1977 the Conservative government announced its intention to shut the hospital doors for good. It did not. But its future is in peril right now.

Last night the board of governors decided that in addition to beds already closed and the jobs already cut, it has two choices: close even more beds or shut the doors of the operating room. Unfortunately, it seems they will be obliged to do both.

What advice can I take to the people of Paris who are wrestling with the impending cuts? What steps are you prepared to take to help the Willett Hospital ensure the quality of care remains despite the cuts? How can the Willett Hospital and other hospitals in this province plan for the future when your government does not provide any plan, vision or strategy for the restructuring of the health care system?



**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy):** I was about to congratulate the new member on his first question, until his last statement. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let me assure you that in fact I think we have gone a great way to try to set out a vision and a set of planning guidelines and tools for communities to use, a process in which district health councils come together with hospitals and hospital workers to plan for the programs we require on a local community basis and on a regional basis.

There is no doubt that these are very difficult times with respect to planning in the hospital sector and trying to give all the assistance and encouragement we can. You may know that in addition to the 1% increase in transfer payment announcements there is also potential access to the transitional assistance fund. I am hoping to have that information for both your hospital and other hospitals very soon, in terms of what that will provide; that might make it easier for them to do their planning. May I also say that with respect to trying to help hospitals in planning, we have tried to give a three-year horizon for a better planning option.

With respect to the Willett in general, you may also know that there have been proposals from your hospital to look at the issue of developing a clinic for acquired-brain-injury programming. This is an area I am very interested in. As a result of the steps we have taken on restriction of out-of-country referrals, we are trying to look at a program for repatriation back to Ontario of patients who have acquired brain injury. I'm interested in expanding those services. We've already taken some first steps and we're looking at what the second phase of that expansion should be. The hospital has been encouraged to put together a proposal.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the minister conclude her response, please?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** When that comes forward, and when we have the full light of what is available in terms of expanded resources in this area, I'd be pleased to review that proposal and talk to the member about it.

#### VISITOR

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I invite all members to welcome to our midst this afternoon, having been seated in the members' gallery east, a former member of the assembly for Scarborough Centre, Margaret Renwick. Welcome.

#### MOTIONS

##### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr Cooke moved that, notwithstanding standing order 94, private members' public business not be considered until Thursday, April 23, 1992, and that the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot items 1 to 4 inclusive.

Motion agreed to.

#### HOUSE SITTINGS

Mr Cooke moved that, notwithstanding standing order 8(a), the House shall meet at 1:30 pm on Thursday, April 9, 1992, and Thursday, April 16, 1992.

Motion agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE SITTING

Mr Cooke moved that, notwithstanding any standing order, the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly be authorized to meet from 10:30 am till 12 noon on Wednesday, April 8, 1992, to complete the writing of the committee's final report, pursuant to the reference of the House on December 19, 1991. For all purposes associated with the completion of the referral of the House of December 19, 1991, the membership of the committee and the subcommittee shall be the same as it was immediately before the commencement of the second session of the present Parliament, and the committee may consider all evidence received during its deliberations prior to the commencement of the second session, April 6, 1992.

Motion agreed to.

1510

#### PETITIONS

##### ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD RULINGS

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** I have a petition to submit today which has been signed by some 1,357 signatories. Those signatures come from over 100 municipalities in the province. The petition reads:

"Whereas municipalities throughout Ontario are having planning decisions overruled by the Ontario Municipal Board in developers' favour; and

"Whereas rulings by the OMB are made contrary to the recommendations of planning professionals and residents; and

"Whereas rulings are made on technicalities and do not take the intent of the Planning Act into account, resulting in inappropriate development; and

"Whereas the existing Planning Act does not differentiate between significantly different developments covered by the same zoning; and

"Whereas there is no protection against home purchasers being misled about future developments in the neighbourhood; and

"Whereas there is no opportunity for local residents to effectively object to developments which directly affect them,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the operation and impartiality of the Ontario Municipal Board be examined;

"That recent OMB rulings be reviewed, giving full consideration to the recommendations of municipalities, planning professionals and local residents;

"That amendments be made to the Planning Act to avoid zoning ambiguities;

"That legislation be introduced to protect home purchasers against unacceptable future developments;

"That there be a procedure at OMB hearings for local resident groups to effectively object to developments which directly affect them; and

"That we ask for a hearing before ministers related to the above issues."

I submit this petition and I have signed it in support.

#### VEHICLE LICENSING OFFICES

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** Today I am presenting a petition with respect to the very serious concerns which exist in my riding concerning the apparent government intention to close licence-issuing offices. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We agree with the licence issuers: Licence-issuing offices should stay in the small towns, as they are now."

I am affixing my name to this petition as well.

#### SALE OF PARK

**Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton):** "We, the undersigned, do beg leave to petition the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Ontario and the members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

All the residents of Dunsford, Ontario, are upset and are opposed to the sale of their park. They therefore ask the department of highways to accept the offer of \$10,000 which was offered to it by the council of Dunsford and the township of Verulam council and maintain that special area as a park for their children.

I have also signed this.

#### EDUCATION FUNDING

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows."

This petition is signed by 34 people, urging the government to establish an advisory committee that will review the funding of education as it pertains to independent religious schools.

I have signed it and added my name to this petition.

#### REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr Kormos from the standing committee on resources development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act, 1991 / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société de l'électricité.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr Brown from the standing committee on general government presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill 121, An Act to revise the Law related to Residential Rent Regulation / Loi révisant les lois relatives à la réglementation des loyers d'habitation.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Caplan from the standing committee on social development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill 143, An Act respecting the Management of Waste in the Greater Toronto Area and to amend the Environmental Protection Act / Loi concernant la gestion des déchets dans la région du grand Toronto et modifiant la Loi sur la protection de l'environnement.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

[Later]

**Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines):** Before we proceed to orders of the day, I ask for unanimous consent to revert back to reports by committees.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Do we have unanimous consent?

**Interjections:** Agreed.

**Hon Miss Martel:** It is my understanding that the reports of two committees, in particular Bills 143 and 121, have been sent in error for third reading. They should be sent to committee of the whole House.

**The Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House that Bill 121 and Bill 143 be ordered to committee of the whole?

**Interjections:** Agreed.

**The Speaker:** So ordered, Bills 121 and 143.

##### COMITÉ SPÉCIAL DU RÔLE DE L'ONTARIO AU SEIN DE LA CONFÉDÉRATION

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

M. Drainville du Comité spécial du rôle de l'Ontario au sein de la Confédération présente le rapport final du Comité et propose que l'étude du rapport, conformément à l'article 36(b) du Règlement, soit inscrite dans Feuilleton et Avis.

Mr Drainville from the select committee on Ontario in Confederation presented the committee's final report and requested that it be placed on the Orders and Notices paper for consideration pursuant to standing order 36(b).

La motion est adoptée.

Motion agreed to.



**Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton):** Very briefly, the select committee on Ontario in Confederation met, as you know, for a long period of time and responded, I think very directly, to the needs and aspirations of Ontarians as they expressed themselves across this province as to the future of this country. I believe this report is a full one and addresses many of the issues that have been raised and I look forward to debate in this House on that matter.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Mr Hansen from the standing committee on finance and economic affairs presented the interim report on the pre-budget consultations of 1992 and also the report from the standing committee on finance and economic affairs on its pre-budget consultations, 1992.

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** I would like to thank all the committee members who were on the committee—as Chair, I was able to have a good working committee there—and all the people who came before the committee for their presentations.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr Runciman from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's 23rd through 30th reports, inclusive, and moved their adoption.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Pursuant to standing order 104(g)14, the reports are deemed to be adopted by the House.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### ALARM SYSTEMS ACT, 1992

##### LOI DE 1992 SUR LES SYSTÈMES D'ALARME

Mr McLean moved first reading of Bill 2, An Act to regulate Alarm Systems / Loi réglementant les systèmes d'alarme.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I just have a short explanatory note. The purpose of the bill is to regulate alarm systems. The bill establishes a licensing system for persons engaged in the business of providing alarm services and persons employed as alarm installers. The bill provides for investigations regarding the suitability of persons applying for licences and investigations of complaints against persons providing alarm services.

In addition, the bill prohibits the sale of alarm systems not meeting minimum technical standards and requires occupiers of real property on which alarm systems are installed to notify the local police of the installation.

Finally, the bill establishes a system of fines for false alarms that cause the unnecessary response of the police, the fire department or an ambulance service. Higher fines are specified for subsequent false alarms occurring within 12 months of a first false alarm. The bill also permits a court to order the disconnection of an alarm system after the third false alarm within a 12-month period.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

##### DÉBAT SUR LE DISCOURS DU TRÔNE

Consideration of the throne speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Ms Swarbrick moved, seconded by Mr Bisson, that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable Henry Newton Rowell Jackman, a Member of the Order of Canada, Officer in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, bachelor of arts, bachelor of laws, doctor of laws, honorary lieutenant colonel of the Governor General's Horse Guards, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

**Ms Anne Swarbrick (Scarborough West):** I attended a conference of young people the other day. These young men and women in their teens talked about their dreams. They talked about their dreams of becoming the best they can be, of ending racism, of peace and of making social change and that all of us may have our dreams come true.

What is my government doing to help make the dreams of these young people come true? My government is committed to economic renewal, to get people back to work and to restructure Ontario's economy to bring about greater fairness in the workforce these young people will soon enter.

These young people are a reflection of the coming reality that, by the year 2000, 85% of Ontario's workforce will be composed of women, of people of colour, of aboriginal Canadians and of disabled people. Our workforce has changed dramatically from the workforce that existing laws were designed to deal with.

My government is extending a strong hand and a clear invitation to all sectors and all groups in Ontario communities to work as partners with us to build that renewed economy restructured to meet the realities of today's workforce of capable women, people of colour, aboriginal Canadians and disabled people.

What is the reality of the Ontario economy that my government inherited? What is the reality of the Ontario economy young men and women see ahead of them that their parents are now struggling to cope with? Canada's federal government has also been actively restructuring our economy, leaving in its wake a devastating destruction of jobs. Federal policies of the Canada-US free trade agreement, the high dollar, high interest rates and the GST have been gutting Canada's manufacturing jobs, and 80% of those job losses have been in Ontario.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has shown that to find a period of greater collapse of manufacturing employment one has to go back to the Great Depression. In 1929 it fell 29.7% before bottoming out in 1933. The current net destruction of manufacturing jobs at 23.1% shows no sign of stopping. After the net loss of 461,000 jobs between June 1989 and October 1991, manufacturing



now employs only 15% of the total Canadian labour force, which is likely the lowest in the industrial world. The CCPA document shows that federal policies were directly responsible for these jobs losses and that 65% of the jobs lost are due to permanent plant closures.

From January 1989 to November 1991, federal policies have added almost 500,000 people to Canada's unemployment rolls, pushing the official unemployment rate up from 7.8% to 10.3%, which is 1,423,000 people. If we add to this the 800,000 laid-off workers who are no longer considered to be part of the workforce because they had ceased looking for work more than six months earlier, that is another 6.5%; add 93,000 still considered part of the workforce but not seeking work because they've become discouraged or are awaiting replies from employers, that is another 1%; add 502,000 working part-time because they can't find full-time work, that is another 4.2%, and the unemployment-underemployment rate rises to 21%. These add up to a human crisis which rivals the 1930s. The final nail in the coffin for what is left of Ontario manufacturing jobs may well be driven in by Mr Mulroney's and Mr Bush's proposed North American free trade agreement.

It is consistent with the heartlessness of the current federal government that at the worst economic times since the 1930s it has reneged both on promises for labour adjustment programs to help get people back to work and on legal, written agreements with Canadian provinces to maintain its share of financial support for our education and health care systems and for our social assistance programs.

Because Ontario has suffered 80% of Canada's manufacturing job losses, our province has been hit the hardest by far by the federal government's decision to cut back from 50% to 28% its share of funding of our social assistance program. This decision by the federal government will gouge \$4.5 billion from the Ontario budget this year alone at the same time that the federal government has cut back unemployment insurance benefits, forcing people more quickly on to provincial social assistance programs.

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My government did not create this economic nightmare, but my government is taking the responsibility for trying to clean up the mess created by federal policies. We are taking on that responsibility at least until the Canadian public has a chance to replace Brian Mulroney with that increasingly impressive woman from the north.

Ontario's NDP government believes that people do not need governments to walk them backwards to mean and miserable economic conditions. We need governments prepared to lead us forward to increasing prosperity and to increasing social harmony or, as the young men and women at that conference said, to the realization of their dreams of becoming the best that they can be and of all of us having our dreams come true.

What is my government doing to help make the dreams of these young people come true? First, we are investing in people. In recent consultation meetings with community leaders in my riding, time and time again I heard calls for government to cut waste, duplication and excess administration. Time and time again I heard calls for better and more coordinated training to provide business with the

skilled workers it needs. Time and time again I heard calls for greater use of welfare funding to help people get back to work.

Our government is taking action on all these fronts. We are creating the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, which will bring the 48 different training programs now run by 10 different ministries under one roof. The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board will be directed by a partnership of business, labour and community groups working with the provincial government to ensure that Ontario's restructured economy will have a highly skilled workforce.

My government will soon be announcing details of a combination of training programs and child care to help people get off social assistance and back into the job market. We laid the groundwork for child care reform last year by providing for the conversion of child care into a non-profit, quality system. We will now be increasing the number of affordable child care spaces available to support working families and to help parents on social assistance get back to work.

But what does today's world consist of for young people? Women now make up half the workforce. The ethnic and cultural mix at work is far more diverse. In recent years there has been a rapid expansion of employment in the service and retail sectors, with workplaces employing smaller numbers of workers, many of them part-timers, often women and members of minority groups. Their work is frequently characterized by low wages, few benefits and limited opportunities.

The Ontario Labour Relations Act has not been updated for 15 years, and it is geared to the needs of a primarily male workforce in large workplaces. This does not reflect the reality of today's workplace and workforce. A number of legal and practical obstacles in the present Labour Relations Act now denies access to collective bargaining for large numbers of employees, particularly women, part-timers and members of minority groups in the rapidly growing service sector.

We like to claim that we are a democracy. We say Ontario workers have the right to join a free union, something we all claimed workers in Poland should enjoy. Yet the reality in Ontario is that most people are terrified to whisper the word "union" in a non-union workplace. In fact, many people are afraid to be identified with the union in unionized workplaces. They are afraid of being fired or of limiting their opportunities for advancement.

Those who are leading the campaign of terror against reform of the Ontario Labour Relations Act claim that we are going to tilt the balance of labour relations in Ontario. What balance? I come from the labour movement. I remember well the many frantic calls for help we frequently received at the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto from workers who had been treated abominably by employers, but when I proposed meeting with them about the possibility of helping to form a union at their workplace, most backed off in fear. They hoped the Ontario Labour Relations Board or the Ministry of Labour might be able to help them, but there was seldom anything they could do.



What about when workers come forward with the courage to help bring a union into workplaces where employees need representation? Those meetings with those workers sometimes resembled the infamous Watergate meetings with Deep Throat as we helped people to overcome their fears and tried to ensure that the employer wouldn't find out and wage a campaign to scare people off.

I also felt that I was training a team of private investigators to identify all of the employer's locations, to try to identify the names of the people who work there, to identify their phone numbers and their addresses so that you could contact them after hours, and to identify the people's position so that you could determine what bargaining unit they belonged to.

So again I ask: What balance now exists? It is my government's reforms that will finally create some balance in labour-management relations in Ontario.

It is the Ontario NDP government that has at long last given priority to creating equality for women on all fronts. It is this government that has finally put women into the corridors of power; that has unwaveringly protected women's right to choose in the area of reproductive rights; that is paving the way towards an affordable, quality system of child care; that has championed pay equity and is now extending it to the women who have been left out; that is providing for the automatic deduction of support payments for women and their children, and now it is our government that is willing to ensure that women, including immigrants and minority women, will enjoy the right of free collective bargaining in Ontario. The fact that many labour unions are predominantly male is not the fault of unions. It's the fault of Ontario's labour laws which discriminate against the workplaces in which women predominate.

When I was 19 years of age I knew nothing about unions, but somebody invited me to get involved in the union in my workplace. I decided, "What better way to get to know about it than to get involved?" I learned all right. Some of the young people I told you about at the beginning of my speech have dreams about making social change. It was through my union that I learned about social change. It was never taught in the school system. It was through my union that I learned that society changes by people coming together and sharing their dreams, like those young people were, and working together to make them come true. I learned that unions and the collective bargaining process have contributed immensely to making Canada the civilized nation that it is today, by paving the way for benefits like medical insurance, sick leave entitlements, workers' compensation, severance pay, unemployment insurance, decent hours of work, pensions, health and safety protection on the job and, more recently, for dental plans, prescription drug care and increased day care.

These are now benefits that most of us enjoy and take for granted, unionized or not. Well, many of these benefits are not enjoyed by the workers, mostly women workers, in the retail and service sectors and in other small workplaces. The people waging this campaign of terror against these reforms to the Labour Relations Act claim that they

will drive business out of Ontario. This campaign reminds me of the one that was waged against Ontario's health and safety reforms a few years ago. Its claims were unfounded. This campaign reminds me of the threats of doctors when Tommy Douglas's government introduced medicare in Saskatchewan. Thank God his government didn't back down. Well, neither will we.

When I have discussed with business people in my riding the reality that in almost all cases these reforms will simply bring Ontario's laws up to date with what already exists in other Canadian provinces and that these reforms can in fact help to improve productivity, they have pointed out that the real problem is not the reforms themselves; the business people in my riding whom I have talked to have pointed out that the real problem is employers' perception of the reforms.

So what we need is the assistance of enlightened business people and other community leaders to help us to change that perception so that it matches reality. The reality is that in today's economic crisis, society is crying out for a new era of cooperation in our labour-management relations, and this government's reforms can make that new era happen.

To reach that new era of cooperation, we need business to take the high road. We need business to deal with the reality and not with an outdated perception. We must look to the future and not to the past. In most successful economies in Europe the laws assist unions and management to work together as partners in building those strong economies. In Ontario, antiquated labour laws force unions and working people to work underground trying to organize without getting caught by the employer. Why should workers be afraid to organize? They are simply standing up for a better life for themselves and their families and want their share of respect.

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Our present laws polarize unions and employers, pitting both sides against each other. Laws that cause both sides to see each other as the bad guys are in desperate need of reform. If we are serious about renewing the Ontario economy, then both sides have to come together as equal partners. Ontario needs labour laws that will foster a win-win situation and result in greater mutual respect and productivity.

When those same workers decide that they must go on strike to stand up for themselves, they do not do so lightly. They know they are going to go without pay and that their families may face hardship when they do. For most workers, going on strike goes against the grain of what they ever expected or wanted to do. Is it fair that these workers, who have given up all their income to go on strike for what they feel is basic fairness, are then faced with an employer using replacement workers to operate business as usual and maintain its profits?

We must remember that strikes occur in less than 5% of collective bargaining situations. I expect that with labour law reforms improving labour-management relations, that figure will be reduced further. But when Ontario workers arrive at the point where they are fed up and not willing to take it any more; where they feel forced to stand



up democratically to defend themselves by going on strike in their families' interests, then businesses should not be allowed to hire replacement workers to conduct business as usual.

The province of Quebec legislated against replacement workers 14 years ago in 1978—I repeat, 1978—and Quebec's major employer group dropped its court challenge to that law, citing the relative harmony it has brought to labour-management relations in that province.

We need that kind of labour-management harmony in Ontario. We need reform of Ontario's labour relations laws to bring labour-management relations into a new era of workplace harmony, productivity and fairness.

As my government invests in our people, we invest in all of our people. We are restructuring our economy to more fairly compensate all groups. For too long our society assumed that jobs done predominantly by women must, by definition, be of less value than jobs done by men. In opposition, New Democrats forced the previous government through the 1985 accord to introduce pay equity legislation to begin more fairly to compensate women for the work they do. But many women were left out under the legislation introduced by that government.

Before Christmas, my government introduced legislation to enable more women to be paid for the true value of the work they do by allowing them to be paid wages that compare to men's wages in the same proportion as their jobs' value compares to the value of men's jobs in their workplace. This session, my government will introduce legislation to bring more equitable wages into workplaces where there are no men to compare duties and pay rates to; for example, community organizations like child care centres, garment factories employing only women. We will do this by providing a mechanism to identify men's jobs in other organizations that make sense to use as a proxy for comparison to those women's jobs.

As I mentioned earlier, one of the dreams of those young Ontarians I met with the other day is to end racism. One of the most harmful forms of racism prevents men and women from being employed in jobs for which they are qualified, simply because of their race. Yes, that form of racism is still alive and well in our province and it is applied both against people of colour and our aboriginal peoples.

Toronto's Urban Alliance on Race Relations recently won an award for its study against racism. In the study they used black and white actors to go to job interviews, presenting themselves with exactly the same skills and qualifications. They found out that white actors were offered three jobs for every one job offered blacks.

It was only last year that the racism of referrals by employment agencies and of the requests made to them by employers was clearly exposed.

Yes, that discrimination is still being exercised in many places against women, and yes, that discrimination is still being exercised against disabled people who want and are able to be productively employed in jobs suitable to their qualifications.

Opponents of mandatory employment equity argue that people should be appointed to positions based simply on

respect for their qualifications. On that point, we are in strong agreement. The necessity for mandatory employment equity has come about, however, because in the 1990s that is still not happening. The biggest myth we need to dispel is the myth that employment equity will mean the appointment of unqualified people. That is not the case. Employers who hire unqualified women, people of colour, aboriginal people or disabled people will simply be undermining what our government is trying to do.

Employment equity means undoing the wrongs of the past that have divided our community. Employment equity means creating a society where all of our people work effectively together at all levels. Employment equity means making the dreams of today's young people to end racism come true.

The Premier and our government have worked hard to try to persuade the federal government to join us in a capital works program that would create jobs and invest in our future. Again, the federal government says it can't or won't do anything to help. The federal government claims it is worried about its budget deficit, which it let get badly out of control when times were good.

But there is more than one deficit in this country and in this province. There is the deficit of jobs, there is the deficit of retraining programs, there is the deficit of an increasingly unsafe and unhealthy environment which is driving up health costs from the soaring cancers and other diseases it is causing, and there is the deficit of deteriorating physical assets like our water and sewage facilities which the municipalities have long been warning us about.

In a recession like this, work can be done far cheaper than in boom times. Capital spending encourages recovery and helps the private sector to remain productive. We saw that in the 1930s when it took a war to get us to spend our way to recovery.

We do not need wars to create economic recovery—that is, unless we are talking about a war against unemployment, against damage to the environment, and against poverty and violence. As an advocate of our young people's dreams of peace, those are the wars I am prepared to wage and those are the wars my government is prepared to wage by investing in our province's infrastructure.

The federal government may not have the morality or guts to wage these wars, since George Bush hasn't started them first. The Treasurer, however, will be presenting our battle plans for a capital works program in his next budget.

Although some business leaders may not like our government, our government likes business. As someone who used to specialize in economic development issues with the Metro labour council and as somebody who believes very strongly in the importance of investing in business, I am tremendously proud of my government's new programs for investing in business and of our list of success stories to date.

The Ontario investment and worker ownership program will soon allow tax credits to individuals who buy into a labour-sponsored investment fund to create jobs and encourage employee ownership. This program will give business new sources of capital and give workers a bigger place in workplace decision-making, a move that will



boost productivity. This plan, which will become law in this legislative session, will save jobs by letting workers buy viable plants threatened with closure.

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Already we have used this program to save hundreds of jobs in Kapuskasing and provide a new future in that community. We also led and coordinated the economic plan that saved thousands of jobs at de Havilland Aircraft in Toronto.

The Premier and our government have worked hard to save thousands of jobs at Algoma Steel in Sault Ste Marie. Our sale of the Urban Transportation Development Corp to Canadian-based Bombardier Inc saved 860 jobs. It brought more capital investment to this province and kept our only manufacturer of rail mass transit equipment in Ontario.

My government is working to create jobs while actively investing in our environment through the development of a green industry strategy for Ontario. For me this is a dream coming true. I worked in the area of planning environmental industries for Toronto's waterfront through the Crombie commission when I worked at the labour council. I am delighted to be part of a government that is creating jobs through the development of green industries and is establishing a waterfront regeneration trust to take an ecosystem approach to the regeneration of Toronto's waterfront for economic renewal, housing, shoreline protection and a waterfront trail for us all to enjoy.

Our government is actively investing in research and development for new products that we can make here and sell in global markets. Our focus includes new environmental industries, the health care field and the transfer of new technology to industry and the marketplace. A prime example is the help we gave to Canadian General Electric which resulted in its largest investment ever in Canada. CGE, its unions and our government are working together to create jobs in Ontario by making state-of-the-art energy-saving lamps to sell throughout North America. Employment in the plant will increase to 740 by 1996. This project is typical of the environmental services our government is working to develop in this province.

Our new energy directions are geared to creating jobs while lowering demand for electricity in order to reduce the need for more generating facilities, thereby saving money and protecting the environment at the same time. The potential is for an environmental services market of at least \$7 billion in Ontario. This government will be working with Ontario businesses and their unions to help them use that opportunity to create products, services and jobs while protecting our environment and consequently our health.

The Ministry of Energy, along with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and Ontario Hydro, has set up the demand-side management business development project as an entry point for businesses that want support from the \$6-billion fund Ontario Hydro will use on energy conservation measures by the year 2000. At the same time the Ministry of the Environment is supporting the development of recycled products industries like one I know of in my riding for housing construction materials.

Another innovation of our government that is designed to create new investment capital and new jobs is the legislation being dealt with this session to encourage the creation of more worker-cooperative ventures and to strengthen credit unions. Cooperatives have an important role to play in rebuilding local economies. I know from experience how important cooperatives have been in the housing sector where they provide affordable housing in a way that gives residents a vested interest in maintaining their housing units and common areas in a good state of repair. Our incentives to encourage business cooperatives and credit union investments will help create and boost small business as another engine driving economic renewal in this province.

A woman from Pollution Probe knocked on my door in Scarborough recently collecting donations for her organization's excellent work. She was excited to tell me about the environmental bill of rights that Pollution Probe and other environmental groups are negotiating with business through the coordinating leadership of the Ontario government. Our government will be introducing that environmental bill of rights into the Ontario Legislature this year, following a model of partnership work with business and citizen environment groups.

Our government's commission on planning and development reform in Ontario, under the coordination of John Sewell, will publish its proposals this session. The fairness and integrity of land use and land development decisions are crucial to serving the public interest and protecting our environment. They have a serious impact on our economic wellbeing. Again, the Ontario government has taken responsibility for changing a system that has for far too long been causing the public to become cynical about government systems that impact upon their lives and livelihoods.

My government has also heard the concerns of its citizens that too many projects crucial to the creation of needed construction jobs are being lost in seas of government red tape. While zoning approvals, flood control considerations, environmental and other items must be weighed, they can't continue to prevent projects from getting under way in a reasonable period of time, especially when people are crying out for the much-needed jobs that these projects offer.

Again, this government is determined to make systems work. The Minister of the Environment has been paving the way with her innovative handling of the Spadina subway and the Spadina light rail transit projects, but the process needs to be improved. The government will be streamlining regulation by identifying ways to free up job-creating development projects that have been caught in red tape. My government is appointing a provincial facilitator to move projects through the necessary processes.

In the series of budget consultation meetings I held with my constituents in Scarborough West I heard time and time again the demands of the public to make the Ontario public service more efficient and effective in its delivery of services. They know that programs like OHIP have been growing at an average rate of 13.4%, while we have seen no corresponding increase in the health of Ontarians. They know that every percentage point of increase



costs them money. In the case of OHIP it costs them \$53 million.

Ontario's NDP government did not create the present structure of inefficiencies in government, but we are taking the responsibility for correcting these long-standing problems. In our first budget in 1991 we tightened most ministry finances by 5%; this year we cut ministry budgets by a further 10%. We imposed a year-end freeze on discretionary spending to avoid the last-minute spending of surpluses.

Last year we froze salaries of cabinet ministers, MPPs and senior government officials. Since this fall our government has been putting 21 of Ontario's largest and most costly programs under intensive scrutiny. Our ministers are making changes and developing action plans to ensure that this government will prove to be the most efficient, effective managers this province has ever seen, and we will be doing it while protecting Ontario's needed services, not by cutting and slashing them.

We will do this, as the Minister of Health is, by working closely with all parties in the health care system to restructure it to provide accessible, affordable, appropriate health services for all while shifting the emphasis to health promotion and disease prevention and long-term care reform that will help support people to live independently in their community wherever possible.

We will do this, as the Minister of Community and Social Services is, by restructuring our social assistance program to a system that supports people in making the transition back into the Ontario workforce.

We are doing this, as our president of treasury board did, by showing leadership in the collective bargaining process and negotiating agreements with our staff that responded to their non-monetary concerns while living within financial settlements that are appropriate to today's fiscal realities.

We are also doing this while having introduced a record of accomplishments in our short time in office that is already so long that the only way to readily convey it to people is to encourage them to call our constituency office to obtain a list.

1600

I started out my speech by telling you about the dreams expressed by young people at a conference I attended the other day. These young men and young women talked about their dreams of becoming the best they can be, their dreams of ending racism, their dreams of peace and of making social change, their dreams that all of us may have our dreams come true. As there are no magic wands in this life, my government has developed strong, creative programs to make these young people's dreams come true. We have developed strong, creative programs to renew Ontario's economy, which has been so badly damaged by federal policies. We have developed strong, creative policies to bring about the needed restructuring of Ontario's economy to bring it into a new era of workplace fairness, increased productivity and greater labour-management harmony. We extend a firm and friendly hand to all partners in Ontario's economy to join with us to help make these young people's dreams come true.

**Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South):** It is with pleasure that I welcome back to the House—as some people may not know—after a prolonged illness the member for Scarborough West. I want to thank her on behalf of the government and the people of Ontario for her address to the speech from the throne. I knew her for a long time before coming to this House, and she is certainly an asset to the people not only of her riding but also this government and the people of this province. She is a person of integrity and I salute her.

Getting into a debate around the speech from the throne, I think one has to go back a little bit and take a look at what has happened since the NDP was first elected to government on September 6, 1990, a date I remember quite fondly and I guess others opposite don't remember with as much fondness as I would. But I think we have to look back first of all at some of the reasons this government was elected and also at some of the things that have happened since then.

I think it's no surprise that we were elected to government on the heels of the worst recession since the last Depression, since the 1930s. I think people, when they went to the polls on September 6, 1990, were looking out there, were looking out into Ontario but generally looking across this country and really having some fears about what they saw out there. They were somewhat fearful at what was happening within their own local economies in communities such as Timmins, Toronto, Sault Ste Marie and Windsor, and looking at the effects this recession was starting to have on their families, on the people within their communities and on what was really happening, at the underpinning of that problem they saw out there.

Not only did they fear what was happening within the economy, but I think they feared that possibly politicians, may I say, and certain political parties, were not being up front with them. They were saying: "Listen, we need a little bit of straight talk. We want somebody to go into government and to speak about the issues that are not only important to us as constituents from the voters' perspective, but also to talk about what some of the problems are fundamentally within this economy and what some of those changes are that we have to enact to address what's happening."

We have heard the rhetoric for some eight years; we know it well. We hear a number of terms that have been I would say somewhat invented over the last eight years. We know there is a problem within the economy of not only Ontario but Canada and globally.

But I have to ask the question, why did this really happen? To sit here and say it is the problem and the responsibility and the fault of the New Democratic government of Ontario is really misleading on the part of the people who take that line, because I think most Ontarians recognize that the problem arose much before we came to government on September 6, 1990. The problem with the economy had been happening over a period of years, and what happened is that we got elected at the time those changes were really taking effect.

I think it was in great part due to that that the people chose the NDP in Ontario, because they said: "We realize



as constituents of Ontario that there are changes to be made, and the question is, who do we most trust to make those changes and who will not sell us down the road?"

That is not speaking badly of other political parties. It is a question of perception. People said, "We've seen what the party has stood for for years. We've seen what NDP governments have done in Saskatchewan, under the stewardship of people like Tommy Douglas and other people such as Allan Blakeney and other governments across the province, and never has the NDP forgotten there are people in this equation."

To address problems in our economy it is not just a question of looking at the bottom line, much as some people would like to say from some of the business community—not all—and many of the members of the opposition, especially the third party. I think people recognize that it is not just the bottom line that has to be looked at; we need to take a look at how people fit into this equation.

When the government came to power, we had some decisions to make, and one of the first decisions we had to make was drawing up our first budget. We came to power at a time when the federal government had abdicated its responsibility to this province to a certain extent and had been cutting back its transfer payments. This is not a new phenomenon; it did not start last year. It started in 1984, and especially in 1988 after the election of Mr Mulroney and his Conservative government, because they were in a tough fix: They were trying to balance their budget. Rather than trying to find creative solutions to bring partners together, they reacted the best way they knew, and you cannot fault them for that. You can fault them for the effect, but you cannot fault them for trying. If that is something of a quandary, I will explain.

They said, "We need to balance our budget, so what we will do is transfer responsibility for programs that we as a federal government have control over within federal regulations and legislation and we will have the provinces pay for that." But I think the effect is even more interesting than that when you look at it, because the federal government's direction was that it did not believe in many of these programs.

They said: "If we as a Conservative government in Ottawa were to go out and say the things we really feel, people would hammer us. So how do we deal with it? We underfund the programs." By underfunding those programs, they thought—and they might be right to a certain extent—people would say, "We need to tighten our belts so far that we may lose some of those programs and have them slip out of our pockets." So they embarked on this process. I do not fault the Liberal government of the past for that problem. It is a problem they inherited, and the Conservative government prior to 1985 was faced with the problem of federal governments successively offloading their responsibilities on to the provinces.

The Conservative government prior to 1985 and the Liberal government from 1985 to 1990 decided they would try an innovative approach. They did some things I have to give them some credit for that were not too bad, but they also adopted the same idea. They did not come up

with creative thinking. They did not try to find new solutions. They said, "Let's go look in our old bag of tricks and see what we can pull out of there." One of them was to offload. We have seen school boards lose funding, down from 60% to 44% today. We have seen what happened with regard to offloading on to the municipalities and what happened in some of the sectors with social services. They passed on the responsibility not because they wanted to, but because they had to balance their books as well. They said, "We'll pass it down to the next level of government and we'll let the municipalities and the school boards worry about that."

Again, I do not say it is because they wanted to do wrong; it is because they did not know any better. They did not come to government and say: "Maybe there are other solutions. Maybe we have to make some tough decisions, but maybe we can find ways of addressing those problems in a more proactive way." Remember, it is not just the bottom line; it is also people.

On arrive aujourd'hui en tant que gouvernement néo-démocrate et on se dit, oui, là on a des décisions à prendre. On est arrivé l'année passée avec un budget. Il y avait 9,7 milliards de dollars comme déficit, mais on a réalisé, en faisant ce budget-là, qu'on avait vraiment deux choix autrement que augmenter le déficit.

Le gouvernement aurait pu dire, premièrement, à cause de la perte des transferts fiscaux du fédéral aux provinces : "On peut augmenter les taxes des personnes de l'Ontario. On peut faire payer la différence par le monde." La différence est bien près de 10 milliards de dollars, pas d'argent nouveau, dont le gouvernement provincial dit : «Écoute, on a une couple de piastres et puis on achète des votes et puis on s'en va dans la province dépenser de l'argent.» Non. Des 9,7 milliards de dollars dont on parle, 90% est directement responsable de ce qui est arrivé dans l'économie de l'Ontario à cause de la récession. Ceci veut dire, premièrement, des pertes des revenus pour la province, et deuxièmement, une augmentation des coûts des services que nous donnons. Mais le fédéral a commencé son petit exercice en 1984 en disant : «On va couper les fonds et puis eux-autres on va les faire faire notre "dirty work", comme on dit en anglais.»

On aurait pu augmenter les taxes pour être capable de retrouver cet argent-là. Mais franchement, 10 milliards de dollars, où va-t-on chercher ça ? Augmenter les taxes de 10 milliards de dollars pour balancer un budget pour avoir la beauté de dire, en tant que gouvernement, «Oui, on a un budget balancé —» Monsieur, le Président, vos taxes, les miennes et celles des citoyens de Timmins et de Iroquois Falls et de Matheson et de toute la province auraient augmenté au point qu'on n'aurait plus pu payer.

L'autre choix qu'on avait était très simple aussi. On aurait pu dire : «On s'en va chercher notre épée, et coupe, slash away les programmes. On n'a plus besoin de ça. Coupez-en pour 10 milliards de dollars.»

Soixante-quinze pour cent sur la moyenne de tout l'argent que le gouvernement de l'Ontario dépense est dans les secteurs de santé, d'éducation et des services sociaux. Je ne crois pas pour une seconde que, en 1992, le monde de la province dirait qu'il veut couper dans ces secteurs-là.



Mais il n'y a pas 10 milliards de dollars qu'on peut aller chercher dans les dépenses du gouvernement. Ceci est au contraire de ce que l'opposition, expressément, nos amis les Conservateurs ont à dire : «On peut arranger ça. Vous mettez des wage freeze et puis vous allez mettre les bottes aux travailleurs dans la province et ça va tout arranger les problèmes.» Non. Il n'y avait pas de 10 milliards de dollars pour faire ça.

Quels choix avait-on ? On avait le choix de dire qu'on va avoir le courage et la fortitude, comme gouvernement, pour dire, «Oui, on va le prendre sous le menton.» On réalise qu'on ne fait pas balancer le budget sur le dos des personnes de l'Ontario. On a une responsabilité, comme gouvernement, et on va la prendre.

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The problem since that time has been that there has been a lot of misinformation within the public. We know it well. Some people in the business community have a vested interest in not seeing a New Democratic government in the province of Ontario—not all, not the majority, but some. The role of the opposition—we know it well; we were in opposition for years—is to discredit the government of the day so that one day they may sit, Mr Speaker, on your right hand.

So they went out, made a lot of discussion and started a lot of dialogue within the province. They said: “Oh, the deficit, look at that. They’re spending crazy deficits out there. Jeez, is that ever terrible.” They didn’t say what they would do; that is my point. They didn’t say if they would find that \$9.7 billion from programs. Were they going to cut it out of health care? Were they going to cut it out of education or social services? Were they going to increase taxes by \$9.7 billion or were they going to do a combination of both? Were they going to increase taxes 50% of the \$10 billion and cut programs equally? No, I do not think they would have done that either. I think they would have made some similar decisions. They may have done it a little differently, but I think they would have realized there are people in this equation and we have to keep that in mind when we are doing budgets. We have to remember that people are affected.

So we made that decision and we did a number of other things when we announced our throne speech last year. We said, for the first time in Canada, probably in North America and maybe even the world—who knows?—we were going to turn around and make sure that a few basic things happened for the people of Ontario in regard to programs.

We said, for example, that we would establish a wage protection fund so that when workers are put out of work through no fault of their own, and sometimes through no fault of the company because of the economy, they would be paid the wages due. As members, we have them coming to our constituency offices. If there is money in the coffers of the company—and sometimes it is not their fault; I wish they would make better plans on how they were going to do this—the worker does not get paid. The worker is always the last to be paid when it comes to situations like that. So we put together the wage protection fund and said we were going to make sure workers are paid in the end.

We also said that of the 70% to 75% of people who pay support, in the event of divorce or separation, to their wives, husbands or children, we were going to make sure that money was paid in one form or another. So what did we do? We put together the family support plan. We said we were not going to have the situation continue where people do not take the responsibility. Again, the 130 members in this assembly, and I imagine in most assemblies across this nation, have a similar problem. We stood boldly and said we needed to address this problem, so we brought an innovative solution. We said we would make sure we have regulation through legislation, that if there is a separation and if you owe support, the money will be collected, but not out of the pockets of the taxpayers of this province, as was the situation for years. Nobody had the resolute fortification to be able to deal with that.

What else did we do? We enacted a change in regulation around rent control. We said, “No more will be the day where landlords”—not all, but some landlords do this; we know them all—“would have the opportunity of passing off excessive rent increases to their tenants because they decided to do some things in order to increase their revenue.” We said we would put a block to that. We will say, “Only in those cases where you can prove on paper that you have an increase in rent you must pass on because of increase in municipal taxes, because of increases in hydro or water bills or actual things that are going on with your building, will you be allowed to do that.” Nobody likes laws, nobody likes regulation, but we must have them within our society in order to make sure we have a fairness in how things are driven as far as service within this province.

We did a number of other things. We put in place an anti-recession program where over \$700 million was targeted to capital works projects across this province. We have seen that money in the ridings across this province. I know in mine it kept many people working until this day, projects such as what’s happening at Northern College in South Porcupine, projects such as the Ontario Provincial Police building that is now being built in South Porcupine as well for our local detachment there, the waterfront development project down in Mattagami River etc.

That money was targeted for capital works programs that were needed. Why not do them now? The rates are better because there is quite a bit of competition in the local markets in regard to construction firms and people who bid as far as materials, and at the same time we’re able to put people back to work. We have people working even today and for the next year on many of those projects because of that money we targeted. In this throne speech we indicated what direction we want to take as well. That will be laid out by our Treasurer in our next budget.

We also said we have to take a look at what happens with the environment. The Minister of the Environment put together a program, the 3Rs and the Waste Management Act, to say, “Listen, we need to find long-term solutions to our garbage crisis in this province.” Not just shipping garbage all over the province anywhere you want to go and anywhere you can find a hole, such as Kirkland Lake, but taking a look at a situation and saying, “We need to have long-term planning so that we can work towards



solving the problems that are not only happening today but the problems that may arise in the year 2000 or 2010." It's not as visible to people sometimes when you take that kind of approach because nobody has ever done it this way. It has always been short-term planning on the part of the government.

I can go on at length about the things we announced in the last budget and the last throne speech, but the point is that this government—yes, a New Democratic government and a socialist one at that—said, "We will recognize that there are people in this equation." Being fair to business doesn't mean to say you put the boots to people or workers or our constituents; it means to say you have to draw a balance, and 99% of the business community recognizes that. There is a small percentage of them who have a little agenda they would like to carry out, and when I talk to local business people in my riding they recognize that as well and respect what we're trying to do.

Interjections.

**Mr Bisson:** The other point that I would like to make is that I got into talking about some of the problems—we hear the opposition yelling. They hate hearing the truth; it drives them crazy. Jeez. They're crying now.

I started talking about some of the things that are affecting our economy today. If we take a look at the problems that are happening in our economy, we have to take a look at what has happened. There have been fundamental changes in the way the Canadian economy and, I would say to a certain extent, the North American economy operate. Why has that happened? That has happened to a great extent because the rules have been changed.

If we go back and take a look at what happened historically in our economy here in Canada, we had a recognition when we started this country: We said the Canadian model has to be different when it comes to an economy. Why? Because of two major factors. First, it is the largest country in land mass today, but back then the second largest in the world, with the smallest population. As such, government had a very important role to play in how it delivered services not only to the people but also to industry.

When we were in the midst of developing, for example, our transportation industry, either through rail or through airline services through Air Canada etc, the governments played a very active role and, yes, ran crown corporations. Why? Because they realized in the situation of Air Canada that if you left it entirely in the private sector in a country with the large land mass and small population we have, the corridor from Quebec City to Montreal to Toronto to Winnipeg going west to Vancouver would have very good service, but Timmins, Whitehorse, Dryden, Thunder Bay, those communities would have very little service, and some would have absolutely none.

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So the governments of the day said—they were Conservative and Liberal governments; they did have a conscience at one time—"We have to turn around and we must take responsibility as a government." The idea is that you have a corporation set up in that way so that the marketable routes that make money are able to offset the costs of

operating those routes that don't make as much money or lose, so that Canadians from coast to coast are able to have equal access to the transportation net we have.

At the same time they did that they recognized that, if industry were to develop within Canada, we had to have that infrastructure in place and that, if left strictly within the private sector, it would not happen. That is just one example. If you look at companies such as Northern Telecom you can get into another story, where regulation allowed individual companies to practise a monopoly in particular areas so that they had local markets to make the money necessary to develop the research and development they needed so that they could become world leaders. That did not happen at the whim of the economy; it happened because of government regulation and direction, recognizing that it had a responsibility to play within this economy.

Leading into this throne speech I have to make a few observations. The first observation I have to make, and I guess it doesn't surprise me, is that question period today was much as I expected, where opposition members took their usual role and said: "Listen, there's nothing good the government had to say in this throne speech. It was all awful."

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** No, there was nothing.

**Mr Bisson:** They are yelling that again. Why? Because they're not going to admit there is something that's good in this thing, because it's not in their best interests. They are the opposition. I think we can draw our own conclusions.

What is more interesting is that last night I made a point of being at my office in order to watch a news telecast and pick up the papers afterwards to see what was being said around the throne speech. When you look at communities outside of the greater metropolitan area I think the reporting was actually quite fair in some cases. I've seen some of the clippings that came in this morning from various papers across the province that said that, for what it was, it was a budget that was aimed at dealing with the economic problems of this province and that, recognizing the situation and that there are problems in the economy, the government took the leadership in order to demonstrate that's the direction it felt was important—what we have been saying from the very beginning.

But what was interesting is that some of the responses that came out I dare say were written before the throne speech was even read by Mr Jackman. I noticed some of the business community, some of the large lobby, the friends of the member for North Bay and others, were out there right away bashing and saying, "Oh, this is terrible stuff." I thought it was a very good message. I think the message we were sending to the business community is what we have been saying from the beginning: "We're prepared to work with you, we're prepared to find solutions, we're prepared to do the types of things that are necessary to help business along in this province, but you must recognize that business also has a responsibility." The responsibility is making sure that they take their responsibility in regard to our economy. I would say that it's not the majority view, but some people within the business community



actually take the view that there is more to gain out of bashing this government than there is to gain in any other way.

The point I am trying to make is that it's quite counter-productive for a business community that is trying to stimulate growth within the local economy, in order to allow the small business sector to flourish, to be out there yelling Chicken Little and trying to scare away any investment that could come into Ontario and trying to discourage consumers from buying products made in Ontario or sold in this province. They are supposedly purporting to be the representatives of the business community. They are not helping the small business community in my area. They are trying to scare people away. I would say they have a lot better to do than take the direction they do now. They should be trying to work with this government and others to find solutions to what is affecting our economy today.

**Interjection:** Be part of the discussion.

**Mr Bisson:** They need to be part of the discussion, exactly.

What did we say going into this throne speech? We said a couple of things. One of the things we recognized and said within the throne speech is that a government, let it be provincial or federal or municipal, does not have all the answers. We must work cooperatively among all levels of government to be able to find solutions.

Part of that equation is there. Many communities across Ontario and the provincial government have been working quite well, and in some aspects the federal government has been working well with us, but when it comes to the budgetary process, \$4.5 billion is what we lost this year because of the abdication of responsibility of the federal government. We put the blame squarely where it was.

I heard one of the members of the official opposition—I forget the member's riding—saying, "Oh, there they go pointing a finger again." Yes, I will point a finger where it is due; to do otherwise would be irresponsible. The federal government has a responsibility, and we expect it to hold it up and maintain that responsibility in making sure we find ways of funding those programs that are necessary. If they don't have the money, they can at least sit down with us and work out an agreement on how we can work together cooperatively to find savings in order to make sure those programs are funded.

We have been going through that process within our ridings since last year. Within my own community I have been sitting down with hospitals and school boards and homes for the aged and other transfer agencies and trying to come to terms with how we operate those institutions within the fiscal constraints we have today. The process is difficult, because never before has it been the case in Ontario where both the management side and the workers' side, through its unions, have had to sit down together to try to come to some solution in regard to their problems, but the process works. One school board in my riding has found \$660,000 in savings by looking at its internal budgets and finding ways of saving money within its internal budgets.

The traditional response on the part of the opposition would have been: "Lay off staff, cut out workers. We don't need those. Let the teachers go." That is what they wanted us to do, but they went inside and they found \$660,000 by working cooperatively. With teachers, custodians and support staff, they put together a committee of people to look at that.

There is still room to go, but like I say, the process is difficult because it challenges. We have never done it in that way before.

Quand je regarde ce qui est arrivé dans le secteur des hôpitaux dans mon comté, c'est la même histoire : des problèmes très difficiles faisant affaire avec la situation fiscale de ces institutions. Quand les hôpitaux sont d'abord venus nous parler, on a essayé d'encourager ce processus de s'asseoir avec les travailleurs et avec la gérance de la compagnie pour trouver des solutions. Ça a été un processus très difficile.

Ils sont arrivés à beaucoup de leurs buts en s'asseyant ensemble afin de trouver des solutions dans leurs organisations entre la gérance et les travailleurs et trouver des solutions aux problèmes fiscaux qu'ils ont aujourd'hui. On a encore du chemin à faire, mais on a marché beaucoup de chemin ensemble en travaillant ensemble sur le problème.

C'est ça la clé. Quand le chef du troisième parti a fait le point dans la période de questions en disant que oui, c'est important que les travailleurs et les entrepreneurs s'assoient ensemble pour trouver une solution aux problèmes, il a eu parfaitement raison. C'est la première fois que le chef du troisième parti se lève dans cette Chambre pour dire quelque chose dont je peux dire, «Oui, je l'appuie.»

Après cela, il est allé directement dans l'autre direction en trouvant quelque chose à critiquer, mais le point était là. Je l'encourage, comme l'a fait le premier ministre de la province, à aller s'asseoir avec les chefs des secteurs d'entrepreneurs dans la province pour trouver des façons de travailler ensemble, parce que c'est possible.

Quand on regarde Kapuskasing, c'était très difficile de trouver une solution. Ça a pris de huit à dix mois. La communauté s'est mobilisée jusqu'au point de venir à Queen's Park et de crier qu'elle voulait avoir de l'action. Nous, on n'a pas eu peur dans cette situation. On n'a pas dit: «Oh, mon Dieu, c'est assez de pression qu'on a besoin de faire quelque chose bien vite afin de leur plaire». Leur plaire, ça n'était pas la question. La question était de faire ce qui était notre responsabilité.

Mais on a dit que ce n'était pas seulement notre responsabilité. Kimberly-Clark avait une responsabilité ainsi que la municipalité et Hydro Ontario. Ensemble, avec les travailleurs, on a trouvé des solutions pas mal différentes de ce celles qu'on a vues dans la province avant 1990. On a été capable de sauvegarder cette entreprise pour les années à venir à Kapuskasing. Ça a été difficile, mais ça a été possible.

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On a vu les mêmes exemples : Algoma Steel à Sault Ste-Marie. On a vu le même processus. Au-dessus d'un an de s'asseoir entre le syndicat, le gouvernement, la compagnie et la municipalité pour essayer de trouver des solutions



internes dans la communauté qui peuvent voir cette compagnie-là aller vers l'an 2000. Je suis confiant qu'on peut le faire parce que c'est en s'asseyant ensemble qu'on peut trouver des solutions à nos problèmes à long terme. Le problème que je ne peux pas vraiment comprendre avec l'opposition c'est qu'elle regarde des solutions à court terme. Ils me disent, comme député du gouvernement, «Prenez des dollars et arrangez le problème.»

Premièrement, ils ne veulent pas qu'on ait un déficit ; deuxièmement, ils veulent qu'on dépense l'argent pour arranger les problèmes. «Donnez encore de l'argent pour les écoles, donnez pour ci, donnez pour ça.» Ce sont des solutions à court terme. C'est exactement pour ça que la population de l'Ontario a dit, «On veut avoir un changement.» Elle a élu un gouvernement néo-démocrate. On a fait la même reprise en Saskatchewan et en Colombie-Britannique, où on regarde le Parti néo-démocrate pour du leadership et où on dit : «Les solutions à court terme avec de l'argent ne marchent plus. Il faut trouver des solutions terriblement différentes qui montrent l'initiative de coopération entre les différents secteurs pour arriver à des solutions de très grands problèmes.»

Comme vous le savez, on voit que 18 milliards ou 19 milliards de dollars de notre budget sont dépensés directement dans le secteur de la santé, ce qui représente environ 24 % de toutes nos dépenses en Ontario, au lieu de donner seulement de l'argent et d'arranger les problèmes comme ils ont fait dans le passé.

Cela marchait comme ça ici, le système budgétaire : J'ai été dans un hôpital quelque part en Ontario. On disait : «Si tu ne me donnes pas encore de l'argent pour balancer mon déficit, tu vas avoir de la publicité et la communauté sur ton dos bien vite. Donne-moi de l'argent.» Mais le gouvernement ne veut pas avoir ça. «Tiens, on vous donne d'autre argent. On augmente les coûts. Oui, 5 \$, 2 \$, c'est tout ce que j'ai mais on monte les coûts.» Ce n'était pas de la gestion. Ce n'était pas de la bonne gérance.

Nous on a dit, «On a besoin de changer le processus», mais ce qui est le plus intéressant c'est qu'on regarde des réformes à long terme dans le secteur de la santé pour des manières d'intégrer nos services communautaires de santé, pas seulement dans les hôpitaux mais directement dans la communauté. À la longue ça veut dire que ça va être moins cher pour l'Ontario, et qu'on pourra livrer un service qui est meilleur. C'est de la planification à long terme et non pas à court terme.

Qu'est-ce qui a été dit d'autre qui faisait affaire avec le discours du trône ? On a dit qu'on avait aussi besoin de changer un peu comment on fait l'investissement en Ontario. On ne peut pas toujours aller chercher de l'argent dans les poches des autres. Je me rappelle bien que Mulroney a dit en 1984 quand il a été élu : «Le Canada est ouvert pour les affaires. Venez donner de l'investissement à notre pays.» C'est beau avoir de l'investissement d'en dehors du pays, mais si on veut contrôler son économie, premièrement on a besoin de développer une stratégie d'investissements économiques directement dans les frontières de son pays ou de sa province. Deuxièmement, on ne peut pas aller chercher de l'argent dans les poches

des autres quand ils n'en ont pas. Il faut trouver des solutions internes.

On a dit dans le discours du trône que c'est important et qu'on va continuer avec nos progrès dans les fonds d'investissements des travailleurs et autres programmes qui peuvent aller chercher de l'argent directement en Ontario pour le réinvestir dans nos usines qui emploient des personnes de l'Ontario et qui construisent des produits dans notre province. On a dit, «On va aller regarder dans le fonds de pension.»

Ça fait peur au monde mais il faut comprendre : si je suis un employé d'Inco, on prend mon argent dans le fonds d'investissement de pension et on va investir ça ailleurs. La plupart du temps, l'argent de ma pension n'est pas investi dans une compagnie ontarienne ; il est investi quelque part à l'extérieur du Canada ou même outre-mer.

La question dit qu'il faut changer ça. Au lieu de prendre cet argent et faire des investissements quelque part au Japon, aux États-Unis ou ailleurs, les investissements du fonds, on les fait dans les entreprises ontariennes, des milliards de dollars. Une affaire que le secteur des affaires sait c'est qu'il est extrêmement difficile des fois de trouver l'argent nécessaire pour avancer un projet. Avec les changements qu'on a vus dans les banques, avec les années ça devient de plus en plus difficile.

J'aimerais vous raconter une petite histoire. J'ai dans l'audience aujourd'hui mon père, qui a été «businessman» dans ma communauté de Timmins pendant une trentaine d'années. Dans les années 50, quand il a commencé son entreprise, c'était comme le reste du monde dans le temps. Il avait un rêve. Il avait l'espoir d'opérer son entreprise lui-même. L'histoire est qu'il y avait 30 \$ dans sa poche, un peu comme moi aujourd'hui. Ça fait bien des poches de ce genre-là. Trente dollars dans sa poche, une idée et puis un banquier qui était un peu chaud à l'idée, qui lui a donné la chance d'investir dans son commerce jusqu'au point que pendant 30 ans, mon père en fait sa vie. Il a aussi fait la vie d'autres personnes qui ont travaillé pour lui.

Le problème qu'on a aujourd'hui dans notre économie, c'est que cette chance n'est plus là. Les banques ont changé leurs règlements, au point que c'est très difficile pour la personne avec une idée d'emprunter de l'argent. Les banques ont investi l'argent en d'autres pays outre-mer qui ont fait faillite, et à cette heure ils n'ont plus d'argent à investir dans notre province. Ils ont pris les économies qu'on leur a données dans nos comptes de banque, et ils sont allés investir celles-ci ailleurs. Donc, il n'y a plus d'argent pour nous autres en Ontario. On dit, «Il faut changer ça un peu. On va regarder au fond les investissements faisant affaire avec les pensions pour établir un programme qui fait du bon sens afin de mettre l'argent directement dans la province d'Ontario.»

L'autre affaire, c'est qu'on a besoin de faire du développement en ce qui concerne les systèmes financiers à travers des «co-op» pour assurer qu'on peut utiliser ce mécanisme pour aller chercher l'investissement nécessaire pour l'Ontario et les entreprises dans la province, et leur donner cette chance-là.

L'autre affaire qu'on a mentionné, c'est très important.



Recently a group was put together in northeastern Ontario, initially a very small group of people, called Save Our North. Save Our North started out with people within the mining industry, prospectors initially and eventually developers and actual mining companies, saying, "We have fundamental problems with what happens in the country called Canada and the province called Ontario in how we deal with investment, in how we deal with putting projects together when it comes to mining." This group started talking about some of its ideas, and let me tell you, they were pretty radical ideas to some people.

They talked about, for example, the fact that we had problems with overlapping regulation. Nobody will argue that we don't need to do what is important to protect our environment and workers and health and safety conditions, but they said there were problems with regard to regulations and how we get permitting for actually bringing mining properties into production.

They started working with this particular member for Cochrane South, as the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Mines, and the member for Sudbury East, who is the minister, about trying to find solutions to those problems. This small group eventually became what I would term a movement, and started getting the various people across northern Ontario to say, "We have to look at the question of regulations and overlap and the rest of that, and finding ways of solving some of our problems."

Based on the initiative of our ministry and the minister, the member for Sudbury East, to whom I really have to take my hat off, we have been able to announce, not only at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada meeting last week, some of our initiatives with regard to one-window shopping and other issues, but we were able to carry that through in the throne speech.

What we said was this. Last week we signed memoranda of understanding between the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Mines in order to have a one-window approach to permitting within the province, so if I am a prospector or developer in Ontario, I can cut away the confusion in how I can bring that property on line. I can go to one window called the Ministry of Mines and get that permit. That process has now started. We have signed the initial MOUs. There is still work to be done, but we are getting along there.

We also said there and we reiterated in the throne speech yesterday that we have to take a look at the question of regulations, at how some of those regulations overlap. If I am an investor and I am trying to invest—I don't care if it's in a mine or a pulp and paper mill or whatever—we have to make the process much simpler, again so the process is not so cumbersome that the only people who understand it and can make money out of it are consultants and lawyers, so the process is there to help people with money to invest. We are enacting a program of making sure we can find ways of cutting that regulation to streamline the process to allow investment to happen more easily.

We also said something interesting, probably the first time it has been done in Canada, and it will be very inter-

esting to see how this comes out. One of the things we said we were going to do is make some reforms in streamlining the process for investing in the province. If I have an idea with regard to an investment I can go to one window, and those people can put me in touch, or try to work out my plan with me so that I can bring that project from the idea stage to the development stage and create jobs. The whole idea is to get away from the duplications and problems within interlapping regulations. That is very important, because that's where the savings could be found—not billions and billions of dollars, but that's where some of the savings could be found.

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One of the things this government embarked on recently is that many government members have been out within their communities and ridings talking to the people about pre-budget consultations and saying to them, "We want to hear what you have to say." The process has been quite interesting. When we get our groups of people together from communities, the municipal hall, school boards, business, industry, labour, along with social agencies, the first thing is to say: "Here's the exercise. This is how much money in total we bring in as a province. This is where it comes from. This is how much money goes out, and this is what it's going for. This is where it is spent. If you were the government, what decisions would you make based on what's happening within the economy, in regard to possible increases that may happen in next year's budget due to the effects of the recession and the \$4.5 billion we've lost from our uncle, Mr Mulroney in Ottawa, who didn't help matters much"—another \$4.5 billion, thank you very much, Prime Minister—"and how would you deal with that?"

The process has been interesting. I think it's been informative, not only for me as a member and other government members, but it's also been informative for the people who have participated in these meetings. They've basically come to the conclusion that there are very few ways a government can actually go out and save big dollars. You can save the small ones, and the small ones may amount to a couple of hundred million dollars, but to save the amount of money we need to balance off in the long run, we have to take a look at doing some long-term reform within the major programs, such as health care, education and social services.

People have started to talk about it in my community. I'm not saying this will happen, but they're starting to ask, "Can we do something at the school board level with regard to going to a confederated school board model rather than having two boards of education?" That's scary to some people, and I understand, because both boards are there for very good reasons. People have been asking themselves, "What can this possibly save us in the long run, delivering the educational dollar directly to the student and not spending so much on the administration side and duplication of services?" They look at the questions of what long-term care reform could mean for the delivery of health care within our community, but also what it means in saving dollars in the long run.



The exercise we did was quite interesting because every time somebody had an idea we put a cost figure on it, based on the numbers we had within the presentation. In some exercises, we decided we'd try to save anywhere from \$2 billion to \$4 billion in the 1992-93 budget year. Where you made up the money and being able to even get close to \$2 billion was by doing some very radical things such as confederated school boards, long-term care and other ideas with regard to attacking the whole question of how we deal with some of the universality questions within some of the programs we delivered. If we were lucky, we came up to maybe \$1 billion, \$1.5 billion, \$2 billion. People realize that this trick is not as simple as the opposition would have you believe and that the government really has a difficult road ahead. If we're going to try to maintain essential services for the province, it's going to mean that in time of recession we have to run a deficit.

It's been a very informative process. I'll tell you, it's something I quite enjoyed and I think a lot of the people who participated have found quite informative. As a matter of fact, I handed to the Treasurer this afternoon a report of those four committee meetings we did. We will be sending that back to all the people who participated. I thank them for the participation.

The other thing the government said in the throne speech—and the member for Scarborough West touched on it—is that we plan on making changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. I'm not going to expound on that in any great detail because I think the member for Scarborough West put it very squarely. If we're going to build an economy that responds to the changes it's facing, it's going to mean we have to find better ways of industry and the workforce working together through the trade unions. In order to do that we must take down the barriers we have today that allow that to happen and take the confrontation out of the system.

She was quite right when she talked about the experiences we've seen in other jurisdictions, where things such as anti-scab legislation and other mechanisms have been put in place to take away that confrontation. When you look at Quebec today, with that legislation since 1976-77, it went into the process with the worst labour relations in the country to become one of the best. Even industry recognizes it. When we look at the strength of the European economy such as Germany, Switzerland, France and others, it is greatly because they have industrial harmony within their organizations that allows both the management and the workers of those industries to get together to make some of the decisions and find some solutions to some very tough problems within those industries.

It is government, I repeat, that is doing this and realizing that there is more to a budget than just the bottom line, there is more to a throne speech than the bottom line, that there are people in this equation. The important part in doing all this is realizing we have to do this together.

One of the things we fear most within any society and within our own personal lives is change. Quite frankly, that is a little bit of what's happening within Ontario today, as in other jurisdictions. What's happening is that our economy is changing and, respectively, what's happening is

that our lives are changing and governments are changing the way they do things. Any time you invoke change, people have a great resistance to it. It means you can no longer hang on to that hitching post that you always knew was off there to your left or your right, depending on your political persuasion, that you could grab on to and say, "That's the way it is."

Now that we have to go through these changes, many people can't find those hitching posts any more, and they don't have those traditional things beside them that they can lean on. That is scary, and we understand that, but I think nobody in Ontario would say that what you can do to solve the problems is do like the ostrich and bury your head in the sand and forget that you've got problems around you, because that won't solve them.

People recognize that we have to change fundamentally the way we do things, but in order to do that we have to bring the people together to build the partnerships and allow them to happen. More important, we have to go through the educational process, and I certainly hope the opposition members and some members within the business community and others will help us make that change. I don't hold my breath, because I remember what their function is: Criticize, don't give flowers; it doesn't give you any votes.

The other thing we have to remember in solving some of these problems, and I touched on it a little while ago, is that we can't just throw money at problems. After three months away from the House and coming back yesterday, in the first question period the opposition asked us to throw money at a problem again. I say again, we can't do that. We need to find innovative solutions that allow us to enact the change that is necessary and be able to find ways to control cost.

The other point is, and this also came up in our pre-budget consultations, I again heard a member from the third party, the Conservative Party, the same people who brought us the GST, free trade, deregulation and the rest, say that maybe what the Ontario government should do is set wage controls. I just want to remind people of one thing: When that exercise was tried back in the 1970s under the stewardship of the then Prime Minister, Mr. Trudeau, who was greatly respected in this country for some of the things he did and hated for others—that is the plight of the politician—what we found again was a short-term solution. For one or two years they were able to control the cost of wages within, first of all, the public sector, and that spilled over into the private sector.

I remember being at the bargaining table and my employer saying: "Oh, God, we can't do anything. We know we're making money. You know, the price of gold is way up there, and we can't give you more than a couple of per cent because the federal government has put wage controls on," so we settled. But what happened was that when we came out of that period of restraint and we took out the wage controls, what we ended up with was massive inflation, because workers said: "Listen, we were dealt a raw deal and we remember that, and now is our chance to be able to go to the bargaining table and get what we lost."

If the Conservative Party is going to preach to me about being the bastion of business and free enterprise with all the good ideas, it is a very ridiculous solution, because we recognize it is short-term. It is not long-term planning. Better to sit down with your employees and try, first of all, to open your books if you have to and to say: "Listen, this is how much money I've got; these are the difficulties I have. What can we do to work together in order to get us out of that?"

We have seen that example in the negotiation of the settlement between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, our biggest union within Ontario for the public sector, and the government in coming to a collective agreement in the end that made some sense. It wasn't what people wanted. The employees would rather have more of an increase, but they recognize as workers, because they are responsible people, that if it wasn't there, you couldn't give it. Much better to take that approach and build the relationship between both parties and bring down the confrontation at the bargaining table and within the workplace so that we can move forward and get together, be able to find how we can deal with the situation of the day, and not get back into the exercise that we have seen doesn't work with regard to wage controls, which, in the end, when the regulation is taken out, only brings us high increases in the rate of inflation. It does not give us anything.

I just want to say in closing that a throne speech is basically a direction which a government gives, through a document, as to where it wants to go in its next agenda with regard to this Legislature. I think people in Ontario, when they heard the throne speech yesterday, recognized that the government of Ontario recognizes that in order to

be able to advance our society both on a social and economic level we need to make sure we have a strong economy. We recognize as a government that we can't do it alone, and we have never said we could. We have to do this in cooperation with all levels of government, from the federal government down to municipal governments, and with the private sector, to find solutions for it. We are saying we have our hand out there and we want to work with people in order to be able to find some of the solutions. We will put together the regulations and programs necessary in order to assist the business community, not forgetting there are people in this equation, making sure we build up social responsibility and our responsibility as a government to make sure people are not done wrong by for the sake of balancing the books or trying to help the economy. We have to remember there is a balance.

I certainly hope the members from the third party who show concern will take this opportunity to speak to their federal cousins within the Mulroney government and try to help Ontario and other governments across this country and work together to try to find solutions in the long term for our problems.

J'aimerais remercier les députés de l'Assemblée et les autres personnes qui ont la chance de regarder le débat d'avoir eu l'occasion de leur parler un peu du discours du trône. C'était un honneur pour moi, en tant que député provincial de Cochrane-Sud, d'avoir eu l'occasion d'appuyer la motion sur le discours du trône de la part de M<sup>me</sup> Swarbrick.

On motion by Mr Mahoney, the debate was adjourned.

On motion by Mrs Coppen, the House adjourned at 1653.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haack, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Samia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale



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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 8 April 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mercredi 8 avril 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





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## Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste alphabétique de députés de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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A partir du début de la deuxième session de la 35<sup>e</sup> législature, les pages et les numéros du Journal des débats sont numérotés par session au lieu de l'année civile. Les rapports de comités sont également numérotés à partir de la première séance de chaque comité pendant cette session parlementaire. La numérotation correspond donc à celle de Feuilleton et Avis et de Procès-verbaux ainsi qu'aux autres publications parlementaires au Canada.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 8 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### REUVEN BULKA

**Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South):** The constitutional difficulties before our country have galvanized many so-called ordinary Canadians into action in defence of a united Canada. One such person who has risen to the occasion is Rabbi Reuven Bulka, a resident of my riding and spiritual leader for the Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa.

Rabbi Bulka is the founder and leader of the Clergy for a United Canada campaign. During the past month, Rabbi Bulka has mailed over 30,000 unity packages to clergy of all denominations across Canada. Funding for this effort has been raised through private donations. In his packages, Rabbi Bulka urges our Canadian clergy to speak to their congregations and to pray for Canada and its political leaders as we grapple with the constitutional issues before us.

In addition, concerned clergy are asked to sign a statement affirming their resolve to keep our country whole. To date over 3,000 clergy from across Canada, representing many religions, have responded to Rabbi Bulka's call to spiritual arms.

By taking up the challenge before our country in his own unique way, Rabbi Bulka has harnessed the tremendous energies and goodwill of our Canadian clergy and their congregations. Through his leadership he has pulled together the collective spiritual resources of diverse religious groups and focused these in prayer for the benefit of Canada's future. This is surely a most worthy example of Canada and Canadians at our best.

Mr Speaker, I am sure that you and the other members of this House will join me in congratulating Rabbi Bulka for his magnificent efforts on behalf of a united Canada.

### ANIMAL WELFARE

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** I would like to thank the Solicitor General for his and his ministry's assistance in resolving the conflict between two groups in my riding. Both these groups wanted to be responsible for animal care in Grey and Bruce, one as a branch of the Ontario Humane Society and the other as an affiliate.

There was a long and constant battle, with the one group trying to convince the community that it was the only logical choice. But they had more in mind than animal welfare; they were going to give animals rights.

Fortunately the Solicitor General's assistant deputy minister, Dominic Alfieri, had several meetings with the parties, and in large part because of his skill and efforts the Grey-Bruce Humane Society Inc is now an affiliate of the Ontario Humane Society. I am most grateful for the intervention of both the minister and his ADM.

The tireless effort of the president of the new affiliate, George Bothwell, should not go unnoticed. Because of his commitment and hard work, every municipality in Grey and Bruce supported his group. The rest of the executive and members should also be commended for their dedication.

The welfare of animals in Grey and Bruce will be looked after again now that this issue is finally settled, and the \$70,000 legacy will be used in the manner its donor originally intended.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot):** Last Saturday I had the pleasure of attending a rally in Kitchener sponsored by residents and would-be residents of non-profit co-op housing in Waterloo region and Wellington county. The 30 housing co-ops in this area contain about 1,700 units. The rally wasn't about the people who live in co-ops so much as it was about the 2,500 people on the waiting list in this area.

Marcel Lefebvre, president of the Co-operative Housing Foundation of Canada, told the group of about 200 that the Mulroney government betrayed Canada's cooperative housing program in the February budget with its announced cutbacks.

Penny Bethke, president of the Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario, indicated that she was concerned that the NDP government not lose its commitment to non-profit and co-op housing because of the reduction in federal government support.

At the rally, speaker after speaker came forward to the microphones and expressed their support and concerns about the future of co-op housing. I was asked for and gave my support to remain committed to co-op housing, and was also asked to pass their message to the Treasurer, which states:

"Dear Mr Laughren:

"As someone living in a housing co-op, I urge you to remember the thousands of other families who still need affordable housing. Please include a commitment to 10,000 new units of co-op and other non-profit housing in your budget.

"Co-ops like mine provide secure homes in strong, healthy communities. Building new co-op housing will create thousands of badly needed jobs and attract millions of dollars of private investment.

"Please stand by your government's statement that access to safe, secure and affordable housing is a basic human right. Thousands of families are counting on you for decent homes and good jobs. Don't let us down on budget day."

### MINING INDUSTRY

**Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora):** Last week I had the privilege of attending the Prospectors and Developers Association conference held here in Toronto. During my visit, which happened to follow those of the Premier and the



ministers of Mines, Environment and Natural Resources, I heard much despair and actual concern over what was happening to the mining industry in Ontario.

A number of people involved in the industry told me that in the speeches they had heard there was nothing mentioned about how the industry was going to be helped back to recovery, back to the days when "it would be a pillar of the Ontario economy," a phrase often used, but never really with any sense of commitment, by the former Minister of Mines.

To the west of us, Manitoba has gone ahead with new legislation and incentives aimed at boosting exploration in that province through programs for junior mining companies that make available grants totalling some \$10 million. As well, a tax holiday will be offered to companies operating in Manitoba after January 1, 1993. Mining firms will not be required to pay mining taxes until their earnings from mine operations exceed capital invested. In some cases, mining firms will be able to deduct 150% of money spent on exploration from their taxable income.

To the east of us, we continue to be surpassed by Quebec, which offers rich tax incentives in support of the mining industry.

The mining industry in Ontario is one which is in dire straits. The industry needs the backing of every minister in this government, not only the Minister of Mines. This government should take a look at what is happening in Manitoba and Quebec and come up with a plan of action for Ontario. Our prospectors, developers and mining companies and the folks in the north who rely on exploration, development and production deserve no less.

1340

#### HEALTH CARE

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** This afternoon, the members of the Special Hearts group from Kitchener-Waterloo and from as far away as Parry Sound are sitting in the gallery. They are also demonstrating outside this Legislature to ask the Minister of Health to provide them with the health care services their children need to survive. The Special Hearts group is a support group for parents of children who suffer from heart and respiratory problems. I want to indicate my very strong support for this group.

This group of parents is extremely concerned that its children cannot access programs such as the Ontario assistive devices program and the Waterloo region health unit infant development program because of inadequate funding or unreasonable eligibility criteria.

The children who suffer from heart conditions depend on these programs to help keep them out of the hospital and even to keep them alive. These children are encountering increasing difficulty in obtaining the services and equipment such as heart monitors and oxygen tanks that they require to remain in their homes. This has forced them to spend more time in the hospital and places an even greater strain on our health care system.

I want to join the members of the Special Hearts group in urging the Minister of Health to take the steps necessary to ensure their children have access to the health care they

need to survive. At this time I would like to present to the Minister of Health a card signed by hundreds and hundreds of people which says, "Wishing our health care system a speedy recovery."

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph):** In Michigan state, residents are erecting crosses to mark the number of homeless people who froze and starved to death in the park this winter. This miniature cemetery mourns the victims of Michigan's decision to cancel general welfare benefits for able-bodied adults.

With the stroke of a pen, Michigan has condemned as freeloaders unemployed workers who were unable to find a job or retraining, single mothers whose children are now grown and people who are too ill to work but not ill enough to be classified as disabled. The list goes on.

This is happening in the United States, the richest country in the world. In Ontario, the richest province in Canada, we see a conglomerate of big business and public relations firms campaigning against labour reforms. This campaign is fuelled by fearmongering, rhetoric and of course money.

We've all seen the billboards that say labour reforms will cost thousands of jobs. We know these figures are wrong. We also know that labour reforms are merely a focal point for a bigger agenda to reject this government's mandate. Our mandate is to fight this recession and build a fairer Ontario for everyone.

We try to change the labour laws to reinforce people's right to join a union so that striking workers don't have to watch people crossing the line to take their jobs, and what do we hear? That unions are going to send business to the United States.

The state of Michigan, with its truncated welfare system and its crosses, is but a four-hour drive from here. But the state of mind that allows men, women and children to go jobless and hungry and to die in the parks is just down the road on the billboard, and across this floor.

#### VOLUNTEERS

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** It gives me great pleasure to announce to members of the Legislature that Ignat Kaneff will receive the Gordon S. Shipp memorial award as the citizen of the year.

Many members are aware that Iggy Kaneff has built, and continues to be a driving force in, a successful company located within the region of Peel. But Iggy is not receiving this award for the success of his company. He is deservedly receiving it for his commitment to the community.

Over the years, he has contributed not only resources but himself and his skills to a myriad of agencies which are so very necessary to the community. Erinoak Serving Young People With Physical Disabilities, Community Living Mississauga, Erindale College, the University of Toronto, the Mississauga Hospital, the Credit Valley Hospital, the Mississauga Arts Council and the Mississauga Symphonic Association are some of the agencies that have been the recipients of the determination and effort of Iggy Kaneff.



All members of this Legislature are aware of the importance of volunteers in each of their communities. Volunteers are those men and women who freely give of their time to making their community more responsive to the needs of those who live within.

This is what Iggy Kaneff has done for the people of Mississauga. I congratulate him for providing so much to so many.

In addition, I also wish to congratulate John Lamb and Wilfred Buckel, who will also be honoured as local heroes for their volunteer efforts.

#### DRUG BENEFITS

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** The drug Ticlid, which has been developed by the Mississauga firm Syntex Inc, is a major advancement in stroke prevention therapy. Ticlid has been found to be 47% more effective in its first year than the only other proven therapy, ASA.

Ticlid was approved for sale in Canada one year ago. However, for budgetary reasons, Ticlid is still not available for those who depend on the Ontario drug benefit plan.

Approximately 5,000 Ontarians suffer a stroke each year. Stroke has a devastating personal impact on the patient and his or her family. Its economic cost is also enormous. For these reasons, the former Premier's Council on Health Strategy set a goal of reducing the risk of stroke by 45% by the year 2000. But despite the findings of the Premier's health council and the requests of the Canadian Stroke Recovery Association, this socialist government refuses to make Ticlid available to seniors and social assistance recipients who rely on the Ontario drug benefit plan.

Surely the government must realize the false economy of not providing patients with a drug that costs \$2.14 per day when acute care in a hospital costs in excess of \$500 per day. I call on the Minister of Health and the minister responsible for seniors' issues and disability issues to stop their government's discrimination against those who depend on the Ontario drug benefit plan. This is another example of one health care system for the rich and one for the poor.

#### ALGOMA STEEL CORP

**Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie):** The riding of Sault Ste Marie faced several economic challenges this past year, the most significant one being the very real possibility of the closure of the Algoma Steel plant. However, today our future is brighter and the constituents of Sault Ste Marie are elated. Algoma Steel's major stakeholders have an agreement in principle on the major terms of a restructuring plan. Yesterday the creditors and shareholders overwhelmingly approved the plan. This is a major step in the restructuring of Algoma Steel.

I would like to personally thank all the major stakeholders, the Premier and the NDP government for their persistent efforts in resolving the Sault's predicament. The commitment of all the key players has been both inspirational and much appreciated. Most important, the citizens of Sault Ste Marie must be recognized for their patience, support and their fight to keep the community vital.

You can expect a turnaround from the Sault as we go on to rebuild our community and restructure our steel company. The enthusiasm and hard work of everyone concerned will not go unnoticed. We in Sault Ste Marie have much to celebrate as we embrace our future. Expect a lot from us.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### FAMILY VIOLENCE IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

**Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services and minister responsible for women's issues):** I am speaking today as the minister responsible for women's issues and also speaking on behalf of the minister responsible for native affairs. I am announcing a partnership between aboriginal and first nations organizations and the Ontario government to address family violence.

Violence happens in all types of homes in this province, cutting across all racial, religious and economic lines. It is estimated that family violence happens in about three out of five aboriginal homes in Ontario. That grim reality is not without a context. Aboriginal people link violence within their communities to the negative effect of European culture on their values, traditions and social structures, so it's critical that aboriginal people have the decision-making power to find culturally appropriate solutions, long-term strategies that are practical because they have been developed by the people directly affected. Solutions imposed from the outside are solutions only in name, not in effect.

This government understands the need for joint action on an issue that's too serious to ignore. That's why 11 Ontario ministries are contributing a total of about \$670,000 over two fiscal years to aboriginal and first nations groups. These funds will cover all phases of the project, from native-led consultations with their communities to the joint creation of an anti-violence strategy.

The steering committee is made up of representatives of the 11 ministries and eight aboriginal organizations, and together they will coordinate community consultation province-wide. The consultations in turn will be held on- and off-reserve by our aboriginal partners.

1350

Today we have in the government gallery representatives of that steering committee from eight aboriginal communities led by Sylvia Maracle, the cochair of the steering committee, who is with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, and her colleagues representing the Union of Ontario Indians, the Chiefs of Ontario, the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, the Ontario Métis and Aboriginal Association and Grand Council Treaty 3. Welcome.

In order to develop a holistic response to family violence, the aboriginal partners will directly involve women, men, families and groups. They will clarify the needs of family members, evaluate existing programs and services, set priorities and identify areas of action. The partners will also seek links with any federal initiatives involving, for



example, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the medical services branch of Health and Welfare Canada.

The intended result is a comprehensive, culturally sensitive strategy against aboriginal family violence with recommended short- and long-term action plans. It is an investment that will save both money and human lives, ensuring that Ontario's resources go to treatment, prevention and education programs that work.

This partnership is a concrete example of the government-to-government basis on which Ontario now deals with aboriginal people. Last year this government signed a statement of political relationship with the first nations of Ontario; today we are again putting that relationship into action.

Above all, this government is combining its commitment to forge more sensitive, more productive partnerships with its commitment to prevent the tragedy of family violence. The project I have announced will give aboriginal people the opportunity to provide solutions that government by itself has never been able to offer.

## RESPONSES

### FAMILY VIOLENCE IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

**Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland):** I want to say that certainly our party is very pleased to see that the government recognizes family violence and the problem of family violence within the aboriginal community. We know that in all cases of family violence, women and children are really the ones who suffer. We hope and we pray this is not just a token recognition and that the dollars will be there. I am worried about only \$670,000 over two years for all parts of this program. I hope this is just a beginning and that if there needs to be more money, it will be there for this very important initiative.

We also hope that you are keeping in mind the unique cultural differences here and that the aboriginal community is definitely a part of the whole plan, the whole strategy and that it is a key player in all discussions and in the formulation of this initiative. I hope too this will be something that is ongoing and will be expanded, but I do want to say thank you for what you have done so far.

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** As the critic for women's issues for our party, I would like to add my words to those of the member for Northumberland. We are very pleased to see that the minister has taken one more initiative in the area of family violence. Members of this House have debated the issue of family violence, and we are very much aware of how pervasive it is in our society and that an educational program must be set forward. It is very important that members of our aboriginal community are part of this process and that they themselves will be the key instruments in ensuring that family violence is addressed within their community and among their members.

I very much hope that, because our province is so broad and our various native members are situated throughout a very vast province, this government will not fail to reassess this program and ensure that sufficient dollars are there so that after the two-year period they are not left

in abeyance with a program they can no longer implement.

In this time of fiscal constraint we recognize that \$670,000 is significant and may be all the government can afford, but we do wish the community well and we know that the aboriginal community will take this money and use it to good effect. We congratulate the minister and the members of the aboriginal council who are here and wish them well.

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** It's with a great deal of pleasure that I join in congratulating the minister for announcing today that there will be a strategy put in place to deal with aboriginal family violence.

In taking a look at the background to this problem, I see here it was recognized in a 1990 report that, "Family violence is a serious self-perpetuating problem plaguing native life in northern Ontario, a recent study of 24 Indian communities has found." It was estimated at that time that as many as half the households experience some family violence and it was defined as including physical, emotional or sexual abuse. That study also recognized that native people were not being provided with the appropriate financial resources and they had to compete with others.

I am very pleased today to see, Minister, that you have put in place the resources and you have recognized this is a serious issue for the native community. I am particularly pleased that this long-term strategy is going to be developed by the people who are directly affected; I think that's absolutely necessary. We cannot impose solutions from the outside. We have to work with the people who are affected and know the impact of what's going on, and I'm really very pleased to see that.

I would hope this is only a first step, because family violence is an issue not only for the native community; it is an issue for all people in this province. Unfortunately we have seen the situation increase during the recession as we see jobs lost and financial problems increased. We have seen stress in families, and as a result we have seen an increase in family violence. I hope in time we will have not only a strategy for the aboriginal community but also a strategy for all families in this province.

## VISITOR

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Before continuing I would invite all members to welcome to our assembly this afternoon a former member of the House seated in the members' gallery west, Mr Howard Sheppard from Northumberland. Welcome.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### SKILLS TRAINING

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. According to the throne speech, as we suggested yesterday, the government seems to place a very high priority on training programs that serve the purpose of getting people back to work.

Yesterday we raised the question of the cut to a program in Brantford, an economic development program that was doing just exactly that. Since then we have learned about similar program cuts: one in the community of



Thunder Bay and one in the community of North Bay. We asked the Premier yesterday if he could explain cuts to programs that were doing exactly what the throne speech says the government wants to do.

We would ask the Minister of Community and Social Services today if she can tell this House why she is undermining the efforts of communities that are successfully providing economic, employment and training programs which the Premier wasn't able to account for yesterday.

1400

**Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services and minister responsible for women's issues):** The particular programs that are in question were pilot projects that were to end on March 31, 1992. We have extended the funding for two months, until the end of May 1992, because it is our expectation that the strategies the Premier has talked about and that were mentioned in the throne speech will be capable of taking up these programs.

We had to notify the organizations legally that our ministry would not be providing the funding past May 31, 1992. That is a legal requirement for us under our contracts with them: We have to give them a 60-day notice, so that was done. My assistant deputy minister responsible for social assistance and employment opportunities has been meeting with those groups. We have made every effort we can to assure them that the ministries that are more appropriately funding the longer-term job initiatives will be in touch with them, and we will be continuing to work on that. Our problem is a legal one around notification.

**Mrs McLeod:** I appreciate the minister's explanation. I would like to raise some confusion it creates for me though, having listened to the minister's response, admittedly on short notice, when we raised the issue in the House yesterday. The response we heard her give to media questions was that the rationale for the cuts was that the programs were going to be administered and funded by a central source. It is still difficult for us to understand why programs have to be cut, to be discontinued, in order for a ministry reorganization to take place.

If that is what is happening, I would ask the minister to tell us whether all training programs offered by all other ministries are going to be put on hold while this reorganization goes ahead. If not, why would these particular programs be cut when they have such a very high success rate? Again, clearly these are programs that are meeting the priority goals the government itself has set out. We find it difficult to understand why their future would be in jeopardy and we ask whether it is directly related to the centralization of programs and what broader effect it has.

**Hon Mrs Boyd:** It certainly is. Part of the announcement in the throne speech indicated that we would be making a very concerted effort in the area of training and job provision. In order to do that, because programs are scattered throughout a number of different ministries, we certainly are looking at centralizing and streamlining the provision of those courses, streamlining the application for grants under those kinds of programs, because communities have found confusing the number of different programs that are offered.

In this case, this particular program was a three-year initiative. It was to end on March 31, 1992. In order to continue it, we had to give notification to the groups that we would continue the funding for a period of time, but obviously our ministry, if it is not going to continue to fund it, needed to give notification that we would not be funding beyond May 31, 1992.

**Mrs McLeod:** That is a very difficult message for the people who have been involved in those programs to accept and understand. I raise a broader issue, which we'll undoubtedly come back to in future sessions, when the minister talks about the centralization of programs. That seems to defy the importance of community-based programs, which are really the only way you're going to be able to deliver programs that meet the needs of people in those particular communities.

I come back to the minister's explanation about continuing funding over the short term and there being no other alternative. Again, it is somewhat in opposition to what we have understood, which is the message given to the people in these programs that there would be absolutely no short-term solution to the cuts. We learned yesterday afternoon from the deputy minister of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board that the movement to set up that centralized body would not in any way affect existing programs. Once again, the words just don't seem to match the music.

The people who are enrolled in the programs, the communities that work very hard to develop them and the people who are administering them all want to know if the only short-term solution is for people to go back on social assistance until funding from the central ministry or another ministry is in place.

**Hon Mrs Boyd:** I would like to make two comments. When I talked about centralization, I talked about centralization of administration. Of course the programs will continue to be community-based. That is why they have been so successful. That is not in question.

The second issue is that as we offer these programs, we need to do it in a way that is most cost-effective. One of the issues for us is ensuring that the way in which the programs are offered is directed and targeted to those most in need. I don't know and cannot comment on any information you may have learned from the deputy minister. My understanding was that indeed this wasn't an item of negotiation between us and the OTAB program. The messages that people participating in the program have got they certainly have not got from us. They may have got them from those who are distressed in the community and those running the programs. I can understand that.

This is a very difficult transitional period and there will probably be other organizations that will experience similar uncertainty until the budget is released and until the full program is understood.

**Mrs McLeod:** It is still difficult for me to understand what program could more help people in need than one which takes people on social assistance, allows them to set up a business and, in turn, hire other people who are on social assistance.



## RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My second question is for the Solicitor General. The Premier has recently indicated that he is willing to listen to the wishes of the public on the issue of Sunday shopping. The Premier seems to be aware of the kind of message that all of us have been hearing in ridings right across the province, that there is indeed growing support for shopping on Sundays. Would the Solicitor General clarify what he and his ministry are doing to implement the Premier's apparent desire to respond to the public will on this issue?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services):** As the House will know, recently the government passed legislation and amendments with regard to this specific matter, and I would like to indicate that in fact those processes that were delineated are working, and working quite well.

I believe what the Premier was trying to indicate, and what I indicated in comments yesterday, was that notwithstanding these progressive changes, there continues to be concern among members of the public, those who continue to favour Sunday shopping and those in certain commercial enterprises who also continue to express concern. As a government that has always been known as willing to listen to and hear the concerns of those in the public, we have not shunned these views; we have encouraged them to come forward and we are in fact listening to them.

I am unable to tell the leader anything beyond that, other than that these expressions of concern continue and we continue to listen to them.

**Mrs McLeod:** The minister may just have given us a whole new definition of progressive change.

I think communities across the province and their representatives in this House would need the minister and his government to be just a little more specific about what kind of changes the Premier might have been referring to when he spoke about his willingness to consider and listen.

Yesterday the Minister of Municipal Affairs apparently stated, on a Windsor-area radio program, that the government is considering changes to the act because of widespread local support for Sunday shopping. I understand that the Minister of Municipal Affairs is under pressure from the city of Windsor. We are all aware that Windsor would very much like to be able to open its doors legally on Sundays to deal with the problem of cross-border shopping.

I am sure the minister is aware that in Windsor, a city which was once open for shopping on Sunday, an appeal of the city's local Sunday shopping bylaw is pending before the Ontario Municipal Board. The stores have to remain closed on Sundays in the meantime. The NDP may not feel that Sunday shopping is an issue related to cross-border shopping, but in Windsor stores are now opening in defiance of the legislation as they try to fight the cross-border shopping crisis.

I ask the Solicitor General to comment on whether the remarks by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, as reported to us, mean that the government is considering amending the legislation, and if in fact the government is preparing

to amend the legislation, will it do so in time for Windsor to avoid a costly, time-consuming delay as it faces the appeal at the Ontario Municipal Board?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** If and when there is anything specific to announce or share, we will be pleased to do that with you. In the meantime, the government simply listens to those who wish to express concern and interest.

**Mrs McLeod:** Again I come back to the speech from the throne and the fact that the government said it wanted to streamline the regulatory backlog. But the only specific initiative we saw for streamlining the regulatory backlog was to add resources to the Ontario Municipal Board, presumably to deal with the layer of red tape it is going to have to face in allowing Sunday shopping appeals. If the government is serious about reducing red tape at the Ontario Municipal Board, why does the minister not simply remove the OMB appeal and a vague tourism definition and simply allow communities such as Windsor to make their own decisions about opening on Sunday?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** To my knowledge, the amendments that were passed after public input are working quite well. There has not, quite frankly, been a large number of appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board and, as I believe I read in one of the Toronto media yesterday, there was a quote from the clerk of Metropolitan Toronto, or an associate of the clerk, to the effect that really they have not been besieged at all, which was the claim of the opposition. There was also a claim that there would be some draconian, difficult process mired in all kinds of difficulties. To date, none of that has occurred.

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## REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** My question is of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The minister and other ministers in the cabinet have been speaking over the last number of months about how she intends to reduce her deficit in this province by implementing gambling casinos and video lottery machines. Madam Minister, my question to you is whether you intend to introduce legislation, knowing that this would mean the loss of as many as 55,000 jobs in the horse racing industry, an industry that currently generates some \$85 million each year for the coffers of the provincial government. What, if any, feasibility studies has your ministry conducted to ensure that this will not happen? Who specifically have you met with to deal with this issue?

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** It's no secret that the government has been talking for some time about non-tax revenues, including various forms of gaming. I just want to make it clear that no decision has been made at this point. In fact, one of the reasons no decision has been made is that I have constantly brought to the table the importance of the horse racing industry and breeding industry in Ontario and continue to do that. My colleagues are well aware of the importance of that industry, and we are in fact looking very closely at the interrelations between horse racing and other forms of gambling.



**Mr Tilson:** It is amazing what has happened to the principles of your party when you used to call this type of taxation on the poor unbelievably wrong.

I would say, Madam Minister, that you appear not to have been prepared to meet with the industry to deal with the concerns about loss of jobs and loss of revenue by various industries in the province. I have taken the time to do something I think you should have done, and that is to meet with a number of representatives from the the horse racing industry. They can tell you what this legislation might do, and I recommend you speak to them. It has destroyed the entire horse racing industry in many areas of the United States; it has caused job losses in Manitoba. Most of the 50,000 jobs that would be affected in Ontario as a result of your moves would be in rural Ontario, areas that are already being hurt by economic conditions within the agricultural industry. Has the minister considered the job loss that this initiative would cause in the horse racing industry and other related industries in this province?

**Hon Ms Churley:** The member is quite presumptuous in assuming that I haven't met with the various facets of the horse racing and breeding industries. I have on many occasions and will continue to do so. We have had discussions around this issue on a few occasions and have exchanged letters, so in fact we have been meeting.

I am well aware and the government is well aware of the concerns that have been expressed by the industry and, as I said earlier, we are looking at all times, when we talk about these times of options, at ways we can continue to work with the horse racing people should we move in this direction, so that we can work in a cooperative way and make sure those jobs will not be lost and that the industry remains viable in Ontario.

**Mr Tilson:** I don't know who you've been meeting with, but you haven't been meeting with the people I have been meeting with, because they say you haven't consulted with them one iota. I suspect you're looking for a new financial grab and that's all you care about.

In today's Toronto Star, we are told that in your caucus, and you were named specifically, there is a groundswell of support for legal casinos. Madam Minister, in the past, as I have said, you have been quoted on a number of occasions stating that gambling casinos must be considered as part of Ontario's financial plan. Do you and your government truly intend to finance your spending by games of chance?

**Hon Ms Churley:** One shouldn't believe quite everything one reads in the newspaper absolutely exactly. We have said and will continue to say that we are in very difficult economic times and we have been looking at all kinds of non-tax revenues to help us in this province to pay for our health care system and our social services. We will continue to look at all those kinds of options and make choices based on the information we are gathering, including the concerns around the horse racing industry.

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** I have a question for the Minister of Education. Minister, because of your government's unwillingness to provide leadership you have placed school boards between a rock and a hard

place. They can (1) cut programs at the expense of our children, (2) cut positions at the expense of teachers, (3) introduce double-digit property taxes at the expense of taxpayers, (4) close schools early at the expense of everyone in this province and (5) reopen, with the help of teachers, salary contracts.

My question is this: Which of these options, Minister, do you recommend our school boards follow?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Education):** It is actually number 6—and I am not being facetious about this—which is that school boards and their employee groups should be working together much more than they have been. I have been very clear in saying to teachers' groups that they need to moderate their wage expectations. I have been equally clear in saying to school boards that they need to go into discussions with teachers' groups and with support staff unions with a sense of collaboration that can address some non-monetary issues as well. It seems to me that we are beginning to see some instances of that working despite the fact that by and large there is still a lot of entrenchment on both sides.

**Mrs Cunningham:** The minister knows that the vast majority of school boards reached wage settlements of between 5% and 7% last fall and that these settlements make up approximately 80% of education costs. Minister, as a person who supports the collective bargaining process, you know, given the response to my first question, that to talk about people being creative you are telling school boards and teachers to reopen their contracts. You, Minister, abandoned the collective bargaining process when you gave school boards 1%, 2% and 2%. This minister is blaming school boards when in fact, and I will repeat it, he gave up the collective bargaining process in school boards across this province.

Right now you are talking about being creative. You know they have to open their collective agreements given what you said. You said today that you know of instances where this is happening: (1) what are you going to do about it, and (2) tell the teachers who are here today what school boards have opened their collective agreement.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** The member should not put words in my mouth. I did not say there were instances where boards have reopened contracts. There are examples where this collaborative approach is beginning to come together. I think I indicated yesterday that we are in the process of having discussions with representatives of both the school boards and the teachers' federation, together in the same room, with respect to the use of the transition funds we still need to allocate. I am feeling quite confident about those discussions we have had, and we will be outlining over the next little while some more details of that which I think will be of help in this situation.

Clearly, outside of the labour relations area, there are also other things school boards can do. I have requested school boards to set up joint committees to look at how they can address the duplication of services. We will be getting as directive as we need to be in terms of setting out our expectations for that kind of collaboration to happen.



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We realize there are problems with the funding in an overall way. We have done what we can for this year. What we are saying to school boards and to teachers' federations and other employee groups is that we are prepared to work with them to get over the problems we will encounter and deal with this year, and we also are committing ourselves to a serious revamping of the education financing system because we know that needs to happen to happen to us to address these problems in the longer term.

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** This collaborative process has led to 27,000 young people in the Ottawa-Carleton area being on the street. Mr Minister, my party is not willing to sit back and wait. We are not only going to ask you to legislate the teachers back to work, but I am going to introduce two bills this afternoon, one dealing with the Carleton Board of Education and the other dealing with the Ottawa Board of Education, putting the teachers back to work at 1% this year and 2% and 2% over the next two years, exactly what the Treasurer has transferred to those boards.

In order to protect programs for students and jobs for teachers, you, Mr Minister, must provide this kind of leadership by implementing wage guidelines consistent with the provincial transfers. Mr Minister, will you support this legislation that will send striking Ottawa-Carleton secondary school teachers and, more important, 27,000 students back to school so that many of them can qualify for university next fall?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** It will not surprise the member if he hears me say that no, I will not be supporting that legislation. I think it is important that we continue to say very clearly that we support the collective bargaining process. Also, having said that, I continue to say very clearly that the situation can be resolved locally. I indicated yesterday by way of example the agreement we have managed to reach in our own direct responsibility as employer with the provincial school teachers, a two-year deal also covering the same kind of period of time being discussed in the negotiations in Ottawa. There are solutions that are there and there are solutions that can be reached and should be reached locally.

#### FUEL CONSERVATION TAX

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** In the absence of the Premier, to whom I wished to direct this question, I have a question for the Treasurer regarding his government's tax on auto workers in Ontario. The Treasurer will recall, as you will, Mr Speaker, my questions and speeches on many occasions in the fall session wherein I dealt with the issue of the vulnerability of General Motors plants in Oshawa, and specifically the foundry and the engine plant in St Catharines where 3,000 people will be losing their jobs. The auto industry, as you know, is facing unprecedented competition offshore and, in addition to that, we are in the midst of a very deep recession.

I ask the Treasurer once again, will he do something that will unite both management and labour in this instance: Will he withdraw the tax on auto workers, as I call it—he will call it the gas guzzler tax—which discourages

people from purchasing cars, will he reject the NDP tax commission report which advocated the expansion of this tax and will he support workers in this province who rely on the automotive industry?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** It is a red-letter day in this province when the former Minister of the Environment stands up and requests that an environmental tax be withdrawn. I know the member for St Catharines to be a fair-minded member of this assembly and I know he would not blame the problems in St Catharines with the GM plant on the gas guzzler tax, an existing tax that was agreed to by the workers, by the companies and by the environmentalists. It was a major effort on the part of all three groups a year ago to reach a consensus on what I thought were creative changes to the proposals we had already made. So for the member for St Catharines to imply or even say directly that the problems in the St Catharines plant are caused by the gas guzzler tax is, I think, not appropriate.

**Mr Bradley:** What we are hoping for from the provincial government is that instead of being a negative factor in the decision-making process, it could be a positive factor. I recognize as well that the Treasurer is under considerable pressure for revenue, to be fair to him, as I always try to be to the Treasurer of this province.

But I submit to him in the form of a question, as the Speaker would request: Would you support a plan that will benefit both the environment and the economy of the auto industry by withdrawing the tax on auto workers that you have imposed and expanded; by rejecting the commission report by the NDP-dominated commission that you have appointed and, third, would you consider removing the provincial sales tax from vehicles sold in this province, even for a temporary period, so that the consequences would be that old vehicles which pollute and are fuel-inefficient would be replaced by new vehicles which are much more fuel-efficient and have much better emission controls on them, and at the same time spur the automotive industry and the resource extraction industry in Sudbury and the steel industry and the plastic industry all over the province?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Could I acknowledge, first off, that the member for St Catharines is fair to me in my role as Treasurer. As a matter of fact, from all accounts I have heard, he is much fairer to me than he was to my predecessor.

I think the member opposite should understand or appreciate, however, that simply removing a tax, even on automobiles, does not necessarily mean it would revive the North American auto industry. We have a lot of imports in this country as well. Simply changing a tax does not necessarily accomplish what I think the member opposite would like to see accomplished.

Finally, I would say the gas guzzler tax was never meant to be a revenue grab.

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** It was not. It is meant to be a fuel conservation tax. There never was an intention, and never will be, as far as I am concerned, that environmental taxes

will be a revenue grab. That is not the case at all. So I hope the member opposite, despite the temptations in difficult times, will not succumb to the argument that we should abandon environmental causes in this province simply because times are tough.

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Many municipal politicians are concerned that Toronto Councillor Betty Disero has been removed from council. As the Minister of Municipal Affairs, you will be aware that this has occurred as a result of provincial legislation within your portfolio. I would ask you, Minister, do you agree with the effect of the judge's decision in this matter?

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** The leader of the third party would understand that as Councillor Disero has indicated she will be appealing the case, I do not think it would be appropriate for me to express my opinion.

What I can tell you is that after every municipal election there is a review carried out by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs with the Municipal Elections Act and the Election Finances Act. That review will be carried out and all aspects of both pieces of legislation will be reviewed, and any changes we might suggest, we'll introduce into the House.

1430

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** Fluffy the cat's here.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, the member for St George-St David.

**Mr Harris:** It is my understanding that Ms Disero received advice from the provincial Commission on Election Finances and that Ms Disero made every effort to abide by the law. What I want to know and what I believe Ontarians want to know, certainly the people whom Ms Disero used to represent want to know, is that, given that it was a provincial body, given that the legislation is legislation you're responsible for, are you going to leave Betty Disero by herself, twisting in the wind?

**Hon Mr Cooke:** I suggest that if I answered that question and gave an opinion on the case the next question I'd be getting from the leader of the third party is: "You're interfering with the judicial process. Resign." That's what would happen.

**Mr Harris:** It's your fault. It's the provincial government's fault if she's out \$25,000.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** If there's a problem with the legislation—

**Mr Harris:** She did everything that the provincial authority told her to do.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Cooke:** We don't even know what the final outcome will be in the legal system. The case is under appeal. I suggest we let the process work.

#### AGRICULTURAL LAND

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In my riding of Lincoln and in the north part of Niagara, for that matter, the issue of land use and preservation of farm land is on every farmer's mind. You have announced you are setting up a committee to look at options of particular interest to the Niagara area. Would the minister tell the House who is going to be selected for this committee and when this committee is expected to begin meeting?

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** I appreciate the member's concern about agricultural land use in the Niagara area and his concern about the tender fruit area. Indeed the committee he is referring to is a subcommittee which is part of a major consultation into looking at agricultural land use and the preservation of farm land in Ontario. The subcommittee's primary task is to look into the issue of conservation easements, which is a very popular instrument in the Niagara area to save farm land.

As to the question of membership on that subcommittee, there will be representation from the local federations of agriculture, from the tender fruit growers' marketing board, from the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society, from the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and the Ministry of Culture and Communications. Finally, the first meeting of that subcommittee will be tomorrow.

**Mr Hansen:** Once the committee finalizes its report, how soon can the farmers up in Niagara expect action to deal with this land use issue?

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** I expect that report from that committee to be in by the summertime for action this fall.

#### BUDGET SECURITY

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** As you may be aware, the Treasurer and his staff are now in the process of preparing this year's budget. It has come to our attention that in order to maintain budget security the NDP has brought up I think 30 OPP officers from as far away as Kenora. We've also been made aware that these officers are being accommodated in the Sutton Place Hotel, at a total cost to the treasury of over \$189,000. These OPP officers have driven to Toronto from small communities all over Ontario. For instance, Aurora has been ordered to send three officers even though police activity there is up by 50% and the detachment is 10 officers below acceptable levels.

Given the acute policing shortage in many Ontario communities and the government's current fiscal crisis, can the Solicitor General explain why he feels it necessary to bring these officers from all over Ontario and house them at taxpayers' expense in the Sutton Place Hotel?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services):** Mr Speaker, the question seems to emanate with respect to primarily a treasury function. I'd defer to the Treasurer.



**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I would like to thank my colleague for the referral.

The member opposite is correct in that there is the traditional security around the treasury building because of the impending budget, the date for which has not yet been determined, I hasten to add.

Just to make sure the record is clear, before the OPP were housed in the Sutton Place Hotel there was a lot of shopping around done to see which would be the least expensive and the most appropriate place. The Sutton Place was selected not because some members opposite live there; on the contrary, because it was the best deal. As a matter of fact, the cost for the police, who stay two to a room at the hotel, was something like \$37 per person per night, which is a very competitive rate in this province. As well, it is very close to their place of work. I want to assure the member that nothing is unusual about the security arrangements and nothing is unusual about the cost.

**Mr Curling:** I am extremely disappointed that the Solicitor General didn't see fit to address the question and that he passed it on to the Treasurer. I see the Solicitor General has a lack of concern about this very important issue.

It is our understanding, as you explained, Mr Treasurer, that 30 officers are being put up over 30 days, and we don't know the day of the budget. But the expenses at one of the most expensive hotels, as we know, and the calculation that is given of the cost of this adventure, which you feel is not a great adventure, the accommodation, the living expense—you only addressed the living expense—the travel and overtime, come to over \$189,000. That is \$189,000 of taxpayers' money. These are the numbers that have been shown to me, and I don't even want to believe them.

Can the Treasurer tell me, since the Solicitor General refused—as you know, it's the worst economic time we're having now—when we have a policing crisis in many of Ontario's small communities, and most important, when the Treasurer himself has been bragging about an open budget process, why in the world has he approved this type of extravagance?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I really believe the member is being unfair. Surely the price of accommodation at \$37 and change per night is not unfair in downtown Toronto. No fairminded member would say that it is. Second, surely to goodness the member for Scarborough North understands that there has to be security around the budget. There is no jurisdiction anywhere that doesn't put in place security measures prior to a budget. His government did it when it was in office and we're doing it. Finally, if there were a serious budget leak, the member opposite would be the first one calling for my resignation, and I know that deep down he wouldn't want that to happen.

#### NATIVE HUNTING AND FISHING

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** In the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources responsible for native affairs, my question is directed to the Treasurer and Deputy Premier.

Spring has arrived, and so have spawning fish in our streams and rivers. Pregnant deer and moose are roaming the countryside. This is the time of year that supports the future of our natural resources and also a time when the government is allowing native Ontarians to harvest these species while they are reproducing for the future.

The Deputy Premier may have become aware of press reports about abuse of these fragile resources by people spearing and netting spawning fish in designated sanctuaries. I have copies of them here. There are also reports that the situation is so severe that people are talking about committing violence as a direct result of the clear unfairness of this government's policy.

What is the government going to do to prevent this ongoing abuse of natural resources that belong to all the people of Ontario?

1440

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I wonder, Mr Speaker, if you would allow me to refer that question to the Attorney General.

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** The member asks a serious question, but I would want him to check very carefully and to separate surely what is rumour and what is innuendo from facts. I want to point out to the member, first of all, that the guidelines being followed now by the Ministry of Natural Resources are guidelines which specifically point out that conservation is the primary goal and conservation will be observed and public safety will be observed. I also want to point out to the member opposite that the policy which is being followed now by the Ministry of Natural Resources does not differ substantially from the leniency policy that was followed by the Ministry of Natural Resources for many years.

**Mr Arnott:** I am not surprised the Treasurer did not want to answer the question. Our party's critic for Natural Resources, the member for Simcoe East, is on his way this afternoon to Sudbury to listen to concerns of sportsmen on this issue—with respect, the Treasurer's own constituents.

My supplementary to the Attorney General is this: Will he today commit the government to amendments to the interim enforcement policy for natives to recognize the legitimate public concerns that persist with respect to conservation, commercialization and safety and will he bring the negotiations out from behind closed doors, end the secrecy and bring this issue out into the open?

**Hon Mr Hampton:** Once again, I am sorry to have to point out that the member's question contains some assertions which are frankly not true. The fact of the matter is that the Minister of Natural Resources has attended meetings of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; that he has met with OFAH local groups; that he has discussed at length with them the policy of the Ministry of Natural Resources, and that he has also discussed with them decisions which have emanated from the Supreme Court of Canada, namely, the Sparrow decision, which sets out the law which not only Ontario is to follow but all jurisdictions across Canada are to follow.

Frankly, members opposite would really contribute to the observance of the law and to a positive debate if they would in fact keep in mind that much of the law and much of the policy we are dealing with here has emanated from the Supreme Court of Canada and we are doing our best, along with other provincial governments and federal governments, to follow that law.

#### HOUSING LEGISLATION

**Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East):** I have a question to the Minister of Financial Institutions. A recent ruling by the Supreme Court of Ontario has raised some questions as to how the Landlord and Tenant Act applies to housing co-ops. This has caused concern in my co-op community. Can the minister tell me how he is responding to this situation?

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and acting Minister of Energy):** It is an important question that anybody who happens to be resident in a housing cooperative should be concerned about as a result of the court ruling.

The member will be aware that in December we introduced amendments to the Co-operative Corporations Act. A number of those amendments deal specifically with what are normally considered landlord-tenant issues under other legislation and we have introduced amendments to this act that we believe will deal with the kind of situation that is set out in the court decision. In any event, there are also some who don't feel our amendments go far enough. We will have to make that part of the consideration around that legislation.

Having said that, we hope the legislation can proceed fairly quickly this spring during this present session.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** On Monday of this week the NDP throne speech was watched all over Ontario on the parliamentary channel. On Tuesday several newspapers, including the Toronto Star, reprinted the throne speech in its entirety.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Who is your question to?

**Mrs Caplan:** The Minister of Government Services. Despite this widespread coverage, the NDP decided to run one-third-of-a-page ads to further publicize the throne speech. These ads were placed in all major daily newspapers right across the province. This one, which was placed on Tuesday in the Toronto Star, cost \$10,789. My question to the Minister of Government Services is, can he explain to the taxpayers of Ontario why, given the extensive coverage of the throne speech, he approved this major expenditure in the province at this time?

**Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services):** We made a commitment to the people of Ontario, shortly after taking office, that we would consult with them—

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** You're a bunch of goofs, every one of you.

**Hon Mr Wilson:** —that we would communicate with them, and that we would do it in the most efficient—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for St George-St David's good humour is always appreciated, but perhaps he could find some other way of describing members who are on the other side of the House. Perhaps he could withdraw that term he used.

**Mr Scott:** Mr Speaker, I was appalled by the expenditure of these funds. My constituents in Regent Park simply don't understand why hundreds of thousands of dollars should—

**The Speaker:** No, no, all I asked is whether the member would withdraw the comment. Would the member take his seat, please.

**Mr Scott:** If the member was offended, I withdraw the remark.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Would the member take his seat.

**Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South):** He did not apologize.

**Mr Scott:** I don't apologize; I withdrew it.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** For the information of all members who may not be aware of the practice in the chamber, when language is used that is deemed to be unparliamentary, the member is asked to withdraw. When the member has withdrawn, then we simply continue with the orderly business. I would ask now that the Minister of Government Services respond to the question.

**Hon Mr Wilson:** I will attempt to answer the lady from Oriole's question one more time. We did make a commitment to the people of Ontario to consult with them, to make government part of their daily life. The small towns and rural areas of Ontario do not have access, quite often, to large newspapers that have the ability to reprint the entire throne speech. Therefore, we took it upon ourselves to make the throne speech available to the people of Ontario. They can, by clipping the coupon, send it to the government of Ontario and they will receive a copy of the throne speech. We will continue to consult with the people of Ontario. We will communicate with them, and fascist bully-boy techniques will not stop us.

**Mrs Caplan:** The language from the minister is not only unbecoming; it is an offence to the taxpayers of this province. At a time when this government is cutting important and needed programs, he would stand there and justify the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars to publicize a throne speech.

Let me tell you, Mr Speaker, what his Premier said about throne speeches when he was in opposition. The Premier said: "The throne speech is propaganda, an exercise in creative advertising. I think it is utterly irrelevant. It's got nothing to do with what governments do." That's what the Premier said throne speeches were all about when he was in opposition.

In light of the Treasurer's freeze on government advertising and all discretionary expenditures, which was announced a



couple of months ago in light of the extreme fiscal pressures on the government, did the Minister of Government Services authorize this expenditure or was this authorized by the Premier's office?

**Hon Mr Wilson:** The reference of the lady from Oriole was to the statements made by the Premier in his time in opposition that of course referred to the throne speeches of that time. They were indeed propaganda items. The throne speech put out by this government is in fact a milestone, a progress report on the past, future and present of this government. We will continue to make it available to the people of Ontario for their perusal.

1450

**The Speaker:** New question, the member for S-D-G & East Grenville.

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: In the throne speech it was recognized that farmers have been very hard hit. I think you are aware of that.

#### PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The minister should respect the traditions of this House. She is not "the lady from Oriole"; she is the member for Oriole.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. The member for Eglinton indeed raises a valid point of order. It is appropriate in this chamber to refer to members by the names of their ridings or by their titles if they are indeed in the cabinet. No other references are normally accepted. I ask that all members respect that from here on. Minister.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** A point of order, sir.

**The Speaker:** We are dealing with one point of order at a time. The Minister of Government Services.

**Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services):** I do apologize, but may I say that the member for Oriole will always be a lady to me.

#### MINISTER'S COMMENT

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** A point of order, the member for York Centre.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Would the member quickly place his point of order.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** I will just wait, sir, for a moment.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. The member for York Centre.

**Mr Sorbara:** Mr Speaker, just a few moments ago in the House you invited the member for St George-St David to withdraw the comment "a bunch of goofs." I am advised by my colleague the member for Willowdale that in his first response the Minister of Government Services referred to some members of this House as "fascist bullies." I didn't hear that comment, sir, and I don't know if you did. If that is the case, it calls for an immediate with-

drawal. I invite you either to invite the member to confirm that and ask him to withdraw it—

**The Speaker:** To the member for York Centre, I in fact did not hear the comment. Had I heard it, I would have asked that it be withdrawn.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** I ask members to come to order. If indeed the minister made such a remark, he has an opportunity to so withdraw.

**Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services):** I believe the term I used was "fascist bully-boying," but if you do find that offensive, sir, I will withdraw it.

**The Speaker:** I appreciate the withdrawal.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** If the members would please come to order, the member for S-D-G & East Grenville, who has been patiently waiting, can now place his question.

#### AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** I will go back to the honourable Minister of Agriculture and Food. I want him to realize that agriculture is going through some very difficult times, as was recognized in the speech from the throne, yet agriculture's share of the budget has been reduced on an annual basis since this government, and indeed the previous government, took over.

The commodity loan program, as was mentioned in the speech from the throne, will be helpful, but it will not turn anything around. Things are still pretty rough out there. The public sector is being given some pretty good increases: de Havilland, with 3,000 workers, got hundreds of millions of dollars in support. Can 45,000 farm families working very hard for a living expect some help or at least expect that your ministry and your government will not shortchange them on the farm tax rebate?

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** I think there were a number of questions rolled into that question. I will try with the last part of the question, in terms of the farm tax rebate. I want to let the member know that we on this side of the House certainly consider the farm tax rebate to be a very important program. We recognize how important it is for farmers in terms of providing them 75% of their taxes back on the agricultural portion of their property, and this minister and this government intend to continue to support that program.

In terms of the overall budget, I would say to the member that sometimes it is the type of program you run, whether it is ad hoc, short-term or long-term, and that it is where you spend your money that you get the benefits. In terms of what we have available to us in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, we are looking at long-term programs that we feel will support agriculture and support farmers and give them more bang for their buck. It is not necessarily the size of the budget; it is what you do with it.

**Mr Villeneuve:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I appreciate your tolerance to confirm that the minister has said that the farm tax rebate will indeed remain intact. I thank you for that.

I want the minister to know that I have argued hard for fuel ethanol, which is an area where farmers will be able to help themselves by creating new markets for their product. Is it indeed in your mandate and that of the Minister of the Environment to promote the production of ethanol here in Ontario so that we have new markets for grain and a cleaner environment? Your ministry will be in the lead on this, along with the Ministry of the Environment. I want to hear what your stand is.

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** I believe I am already on record as supporting the development of an ethanol industry in cooperation with agriculture and farmers. Since the federal government has finally seen the light and lifted the excise tax, it certainly is financially reasonable to proceed with ethanol.

We currently chair an interministerial committee that is looking into that industry in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment. I hope we can proceed with some pilot projects as soon as we evaluate those projects. There are a number that are now coming in from the corn producers and other groups across the province, particularly in eastern Ontario. As well, as the member I am sure is aware, a number of projects have been put on the drawing board. We need to evaluate them, but we would very much like to get on with—if there is something in the ethanol industry.

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## PETITIONS

### HEALTH CARE

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** It's with a great deal of pleasure that I present a petition from the Special Hearts group, a support group helping families of children with heart disease. It reads:

"We are concerned with the direction our health care system is taking. Funding cuts to hospitals, combined with cuts to community health care programs, result in a system that is failing to meet the demands of an expanding group. Programs and services designed to help provide cost-effective health care in the home, such as the Ontario assistive devices program, home care services, the Ontario drug benefit plan and our public health units, are being critically underfunded. Changes to narrow the qualifying criteria for the Ontario assistive devices program mean that adults and children who rely on lifesaving monitoring equipment, respiratory equipment and other medical aids will lose funding assistance for this equipment. Without access to this equipment, these people will require more frequent hospitalization and in some cases are at risk of losing their lives.

"With funding cuts to hospitals restricting the care they can provide and cuts to community-based health care programs resulting in program and service cuts, we are left to wonder, 'Where will our health care come from?'

"In order to better understand how these many cutbacks affect those who most depend on our health care system, we are asking for an ongoing dialogue with officials from the Ministry of Health and the Ontario assistive devices program. This dialogue would take the form of

meetings with the committee composed of health care providers and those who depend on ADP and community health care services. As the health care consumers who pay for this system, we demand access and input into the decision-making process. Lengthy surgical waiting lists, hospital bed closures and understaffing, equipment shortages, cuts to public health programs—this is the reality of our health care system. We hope that by providing insight into the many repercussions of funding cuts to hospitals and community health services we can help steer our health care system in a more user-friendly direction."

I have here approximately 2,000 signatures and do affix my own.

### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I have a petition that reads as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual highway signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the direct discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

This petition is signed by several hundred constituents from my riding and, in fact, many other people from around the province, and I too have affixed my name to this petition.

### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora):** I have a petition that reads:

"We, the youth of the Kenora area aged 15 to 24 years old who are unemployed and on temporary training programs and concerned that our employment needs are not being addressed in the provincial government's economic proposals, petition you to express these concerns to the Premier of Ontario.

"As your constituents, we do hope that you are concerned as well."

This is signed by approximately 100 youths from my riding, and I too have attached my signature.



## DAY CARE

**Mrs Ellen MacKinnon (Lambton):** A petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario: I present the following petition on behalf of Generations Day Care Inc:

"Whereas Generations Day Care Inc, a non-profit, intergenerational day care, is seeking provincial funding to relocate in the new seniors' facility Twilight Haven, presently under construction, to continue to care for children between the ages of three months and five years."

I have signed my signature to this petition, which bears 242 names.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton):** The citizens of the riding of Victoria-Haliburton beg leave to petition the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the members of the Legislative Assembly and Parliament assembled:

Whereas the Ministry of Community and Social Services has not been funding adequately the children's aid societies of Ontario, they ask that they reconsider this move and ask that they be supported so there will be no closures of institutions or any cutting of jobs in the Kawartha area district.

I have affixed my signature to this.

## PROPOSED HIGHWAY

**Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West):** I have a petition here from the concerned citizens of west Whitby, representing the communities of West Lynn, Queen's Common, Queen's Chase, Otter Creek and Macedonian village, the latter being in the riding of my colleague the member for Durham East. They wish to protest the technically preferred route by the Ministry of Transportation that would go right by their communities. This route is planned to connect Highway 401 with the proposed Highway 407 and will pass within half a mile of the communities mentioned above. Carbon monoxide emissions and noise levels will have a severe impact on the quality of lives in these communities.

This petition contains 1,092 signatures.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CARLETON BOARD OF EDUCATION AND  
TEACHERS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992 SUR LE RÈGLEMENT  
DU CONFLIT DE TRAVAIL  
ENTRE LE CONSEIL DE L'ÉDUCATION  
DE CARLETON ET SES ENSEIGNANTS

Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill 3, An Act respecting the Carleton Board of Education and Teachers Dispute / Loi concernant le conflit de travail entre le Conseil de l'éducation de Carleton et ses enseignants.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** This is the bill I referred to in my question, which will call for legislation legislating back the teachers to the classroom and allowing 27,000 students to return in the Ottawa-Carleton area. It calls for wage guidelines of 1% for the year beginning September 1, 1991, 2% for the following year and 2% for the year following that.

OTTAWA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND  
TEACHERS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992 SUR LE RÈGLEMENT  
DU CONFLIT DE TRAVAIL  
ENTRE LE CONSEIL DE L'ÉDUCATION  
D'OTTAWA ET SES ENSEIGNANTS

Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill 4, An Act respecting the Ottawa Board of Education and Teachers Dispute / Loi concernant le conflit de travail entre le Conseil de l'éducation d'Ottawa et ses enseignants.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** This bill does as the other one did for the Carleton Board of Education. This deals with the Ottawa Board of Education and I believe some 800 to 1,000 teachers and some 12,000 young people who are presently not engaged in their education in the Ottawa-Carleton area. As I mentioned before, it orders the teachers back to work, allows the students to continue their education and resolves the dispute by implementing a 1% solution beginning September 1, 1991, 2% for the following year and 2% for the year thereafter.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

## DÉBAT SUR LE DISCOURS DU TRÔNE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** I am pleased to be able to participate in the debate on the speech from the throne as the newly elected leader of the official opposition.

I am delighted to be back in the Legislature after my landslide victory at the Liberal leadership convention on February 8. Indeed, as I indicated on Monday, I feel very privileged to be able to serve as the leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, to have been chosen as leader of my party after a leadership campaign which, from my rather biased perspective, was an opportunity to demonstrate the depth and breadth of the leadership within the Liberal caucus.

I do want to note for the historical record and for the accuracy of that record, of course, that a landslide is not normally defined as nine votes. But as I look across the floor of the House to a governing party that parlayed some 37% of the popular vote, if memory serves me correctly, to some 56% of the seats in the House, one realizes that it is not the margin of victory that makes a difference in this business. What does count, and I am sure the Premier would agree if he were here, is what you do with the mandate you are given.

It was 18 months ago that the Premier gave us his government's first throne speech, a throne speech in which he promised to take care of the issues facing this province. That throne speech said, "Ontario's realities—the environment, the economy, our social services and the challenges facing Canada itself—require leadership." That was true 18 months ago and it is even more true now.

What has changed is that this government has failed to provide that leadership, has failed to come to grips with Ontario's realities: the environment, our social services, the national issues and, above all, our economy.

The first throne speech was presented at a time when many people held high hopes for this government. It was a brand-new government, and I say in all candour that people looked to this government for significant change. For others who were perhaps a little less than enthusiastic about the prospects of a New Democratic government in Ontario, there was at least, I think, a willingness to suspend disbelief and a readiness to work with the government to manage the changes that lay ahead. But in the 18 months since the New Democratic Party came into power, solemn pledges have turned into abandoned projects, where hope existed it has turned into disillusionment, and the sense of promise has withered with the promises themselves.

On a vu que le premier ministre et son gouvernement sont toujours pleins de bonnes intentions, mais ils n'ont jamais réussi à transformer leurs paroles en action.

Let me give just one example of a failed promise of this government. It was not a campaign promise but a commitment that was made in that last speech from the throne. The throne speech pledged "the immediate allocation of \$700 million for necessary maintenance and renovation of public sector facilities." The speech indicated that these projects were "ready to begin within the next several months" and would "create critically needed jobs now."

Time went by. The \$700 million turned into something less than \$400 million, if we just look at the reductions on the other side of the capital budget. There was no coordination of the spending, no long-term focus to the projects that were undertaken, and no long-term jobs were created. Few projects actually were ready and much of the money was scattered like pebbles on the sea. This was an example of a failed promise, a misguided and largely wasted effort from the start. But this commitment, later in significant measure abandoned, led the way towards another, equally misguided effort, but one with absolutely disastrous consequences.

If we move in our reflections from the last throne speech to the first budget this government presented, we will recall the Treasurer, the member for Nickel Belt, saying: "We had a choice between fighting the deficit and fighting the recession. We chose to fight the recession."

The Treasurer at that point was still locked into his government's determination to see the world as it wanted it to be rather than the world as it really was and still is. The Treasurer and the Premier refused to acknowledge that this was not just a short-term recession facing Ontario and that we could not spend our way out of it. We could not simply hold our breath and hope that the end of the recession would come and Ontario would look much the same as it had looked before.

We on this side of the House would certainly agree that the Treasurer and his government kept their promise not to fight the deficit in the budget the Treasurer presented. But the fight against the recession has also been tragically lost

as we see our unemployment ranks swell by some 186,000 people since the fall of 1990.

Before six months had passed, the Treasurer decided that he had better take on another fight, a more realistic one this time: to control spending. But I suspect that the reason for the change in direction was not simply the rather belated recognition of the serious economic situation this province was facing; it was the Treasurer's need to hold to a promise he himself had made, the bottom-line definition of his own integrity and the integrity of his government, to hold that deficit figure to \$9.7 billion.

Four budget corrections later, with more deferrals than actual reductions in expenditure, the Treasurer has now acknowledged that even that commitment cannot be met. But long before that, this government was already immobilized by the sheer size of the debt it had built and by the chaos that had been created by misdirection, mismanagement and sheer mistakes.

As we listen to the commitments in this year's throne speech, as we analyse what they may mean to this province over the next months, it is essential that we understand the context in which these commitments are made. Part of that context is the assessment of the last set of commitments and where they have led us. I do note, simply in passing, that this speech from the throne is much less categorical in defining bottom lines for the integrity of the government.

The promise of the last throne speech, for better or for worse, was best expressed in the words of the Premier when he said, "Politics is about what we owe each other." The performance of this government has belied that promise. Politics under this government has been about what people who supported the New Democratic Party over many years feel they are owed.

The words of that first throne speech were fine ones. The Premier's words are usually fine ones, and he has added depth to his government's capacity to provide fine words by bringing in the finest of spin doctors. But the music has turned sour; it simply does not match the words.

Part of our job as opposition is to make sure the people of this province know what this government is saying. But more important, it is part of our responsibility to make sure the people of this province know what the government's words mean. For example, when the government hits the high notes, talking about cooperation and partnership in dealing with economic concerns, it is up to us to make sure that people are aware of the real meaning of those words as used by this government and that too often that meaning is actually confrontation and conflict in the workplace.

The reality is that you can't build partnerships if you distrust a significant number of the partners. It is important, if we are to understand what this government intends, that we listen beyond the words to what is really being said and done. It is important that we indeed get past the rhetoric to the reality of what is happening.

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When the New Democrats developed their election platform for the 1990 campaign they made virtually no concessions to responsible politics. Instead, they put forward a document that cynically promised dozens of items



that the now Premier, then Leader of the Opposition, surely knew could not be delivered if they were ever to form the government.

Upon assuming power the government found itself without anything close to an appropriate game plan for dealing with the very real problems facing this province. "But," went the logic, "people owe us a chance to learn on the job." As a result of this attitude, Ontarians have been forced to watch for 18 months as their government has moved from inexperience to a seemingly endless apprenticeship while it has attempted to figure out how public administration is supposed to work and how it might handle the critical issues Ontario faces today.

What to do until a real game plan is developed? "Well," comes the answer, "in the meantime we owe it to ourselves and to our supporters to be democratic socialists." In the absence of a meaningful game plan the NDP government has fallen back on a program of NDP ideology that I do not believe the people of this province support and that they do not believe is relevant.

What to do when some promises are just too dangerous, too expensive or too disruptive to carry out? I can only conclude that the assumption of this government is that people owe it a chance to figure out which policies it can risk going ahead with and which ones it must eventually step back from. The lack of a clear, meaningful game plan and the falling back on NDP ideology has been one of the hallmarks of this administration's first 18 months.

But to this failure of conception has been added a whole host of failures of execution which, taken collectively, has led many Ontarians to doubt the basic competence of their government. I want to give just three examples of this lack of facility that has plagued the government's first year and a half and shows no sign of improvement.

The first is the lack of realism that has been demonstrated in the Treasurer's handling of the Fair Tax Commission. The Treasurer asked the commission to look into establishing a minimum corporate income tax. The commission duly came back with its report and said the idea is likely unworkable, it may cost more than it will raise, no one can agree on it, it is impossible to even guess how it might work and, at the very least, it certainly needs more study. Yet last week the Treasurer told us he still thinks it is a good idea.

The second area for concern is the basic lack of ability to work effectively with an excellent professional civil service. This is perhaps most ludicrously demonstrated by the Attorney General's hiring of an external counsel because he is reportedly not speaking to his deputy. To these concerns we regrettably add, not perhaps a lack of respect for the basic standards of ministerial conduct, but more a complete lack of understanding of what the basic standards must be, standards as basic as not fixing parking tickets or not publicly slandering individuals, with or without evidence.

It is observable to those of us who are less partisan in perspective than I that 18 months after assuming office, members of this government still seem most comfortable with an opposition role. From the Premier on they are clearly happiest when they are on the attack and clearly

least happy when they confront the responsibilities and the realities of government.

I believe the government has prepared for this speech from the throne with the recognition that this is a critical time for it and for this province. They perhaps would not acknowledge their failure to come to grips with the real problems facing the province or their inability to handle the basic functions of government. They do at last understand that the problems facing this province are indeed serious. But the greatest failing of this government is its refusal to understand the effects its policies have in undermining the very goals it wishes to achieve.

The government and the Premier talk of consultation and partnership but they have displayed a distressing persistence in seeing the world as divided into us and them, development versus protection, economic needs versus social needs, profit versus non-profit, business versus labour. These intellectual rigidities have thrown this government into a muddle of confused priorities. For example, the government does not seem able to understand the effects its environmental and social policies are having on investor confidence, on the ability to do business in this province and thus on the jobs that all of us agree must be created.

The rapid-fire succession of policy proposals, consultations, policy withdrawals, policy revisions and policy implementations has left people in both the public and the private sector literally gasping for breath.

The government has to understand it is creating a terrible amount of uncertainty with every half-considered initiative it pulls from the grab bag. When it comes to the impact of their action and reaction on business, government must understand that uncertainty makes business investment decisions a near impossibility. But even uncertainty may be better than moving decisively in the wrong direction.

This government must get its priorities straight. They have to set aside false dichotomies between economic and social policy or economic and environmental policy or the interests of employer and employee so that these false dichotomies do not direct their decision-making. Maybe then some balance can be found. Above all, the government really must understand that a solid, functioning economy is indeed the basis for achieving all our other goals.

Only when our economy is solid can we reduce unemployment, welfare costs and the growing need for food banks. Only when families have economic security will we really be able to deal with the roots of violence against women and children. Only when children are fed and housed and feel safe will we see significant decreases in our school dropout rates. Only when we have an economy that can absorb the costs will we make real progress in the transition to an environmentally responsible society.

C'est absolument nécessaire que notre province permette à chaque Ontarien et Ontarienne d'entrevoir son avenir avec confiance parce que nous disposons d'une économie vigoureuse et nous avons des emplois.

This government would argue, and even seem to acknowledge in its throne speech, although without much conviction, that it does understand all this, that it is, after all, only common sense. They would talk again of their



interest in consultation, but the music simply does not fit the words.

I have heard the Premier and others in the government speak of the business agenda as if it were just the demands of yet another special interest group. We see consultation processes in which business is told that there is no room for compromise because of a previous commitment to the labour movement. That is not consultation at all.

Not much listening is going on at hearings that serve mainly as forums for preset opinions to run the gauntlet of public opposition and emerge unchanged at the end. The government speaks of consultation but it seems to continue to listen almost exclusively to those who already share its views.

I want to read a letter from an organization that is a key player in a vital area of public policy, yet it does not seem to be on the inside track of the Premier's decision-making machine. It's a letter to the Premier from the Council of Ontario Universities. It reads:

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"On several occasions, the universities have asked for your time so that they may help you to find solutions to the problems that we as taxpayers and citizens of the province all share. Each and every time, you have turned us down.... You talk about partnerships that must exist.... Partnerships cannot be effective without communication and cooperation. Neither of these latter qualities have we found in your government. We come to offer you assistance in economic renewal and we're told you have no time for us. You cannot waltz your way around the knowledge industry in this province, and simultaneously pontificate about wanting to build on the province's strengths."

This is a key part of our province's economic and social infrastructure that is simply trying to get a meeting. Is it any wonder there's frustration out there?

I'd be the first to agree, after some 21 years in politics, that consultation in the public arena is not easy, and no one should be under any illusions that at the end of a process of consultation you're likely to get much consensus. But consultation is still critical to understanding different perspectives and differing needs and the consultations that are carried out must be meaningful ones. People will no longer settle for government making up its mind about what it wants to do and then asking people if it's okay and then refusing to change its mind if it isn't. It makes much more sense to do the consulting before the decisions are made.

On this note, I'd like to turn from the context in which this speech from the throne is presented to the speech itself and to the directions it sets out.

We expected to hear again the beautiful music of yet another of the Premier's promises: the promise of an economic plan that will restore confidence and ensure a brighter future for Ontario and its people. There's no question that a plan is needed and that people need some renewed confidence and some sense of optimism. As we've experienced plant closure after plant closure, people have kept saying to this government, "What are you going to do about it?" When the Premier went on television two months ago to acknowledge somewhat belatedly that we did have a serious economic problem, people said: "We

know that. We've known that for 18 months. What are you going to do about it?"

The Premier has said how difficult it is to hear the voices of ordinary Ontarians while sitting in the Premier's chair. I'm aware of his deep sense of the importance of staying in touch with people. It's a concern that I share, which is why I want to take just a few minutes of time to share with this House what I've seen and heard as I've had the opportunity of travelling throughout this province over the past year.

I want to share this because as I listened to the speech from the throne, I found myself wondering how well this government's direction responds to the realities of the lives of people in this province. Surely our understanding of those realities should be what informs everything we do in this place. Let me take those few moments to share some of what I've seen and heard over the past year so the members of this House will understand why I have the concerns I have about the direction the government has presented in its speech from the throne message.

A month ago I stood with 40,000 farmers on Parliament Hill in Ottawa as they expressed their concern about the direction that, in this case, the federal government was taking, and their frustration that no government seemed to understand the critical nature of the threats posed to our agricultural industry. But for many months before that, in many small farming communities I met with farm families who didn't even raise the question because they had become so convinced that governments didn't seem to understand or care.

I've met with people in the health care fields struggling to adapt to the suddenness of the changes confronting them and truly afraid they will not be able to deliver the essential health care services people in this province need.

I've talked with seniors and with seniors' advocates who participated with enthusiasm in the consultation about new directions in long-term care and who are now convinced that nothing will come from that consultation.

I've talked to high school students—high school students who are working feverishly to be successful as they apply, along with thousands of others, for the reduced number of spaces in our post-secondary system. I've talked to university students—university students who are nearing the completion of their programs and who know they will leave their graduation ceremonies this spring and walk right into unemployment lineups.

I've met with single mothers—single mothers who had finally found themselves a job, gotten off welfare and are now right back in the same trap. I've talked to men and women who have gone back to school to retrain in the hopes of getting that new start and who are now hunting for the jobs that just aren't there.

I've even listened to welfare workers who tell me that they call in the OPP to investigate allegations of abuse because they are simply overwhelmed with the demands for basic relief.

I've walked through the streets of Niagara Falls, of Windsor, of Kirkland Lake, and I've seen the for-lease signs in the front windows and the big posters for the bankruptcy sales. I've talked to people in business, people



who say their head company is looking for investment in this country but they just aren't sure that it's safe to invest in Ontario. And I've talked to too many others who've been doing business here for a very long time but who have found it impossible to continue and who have just quietly closed their doors—not a headline, just people who have left.

I talked to one businessman who is a fervent Canadian who anguished about his decision to move his business south, who did everything he could to keep it functioning in Ontario, at least some part of it functioning in Ontario, but who found that the sheer accumulation of taxes and regulations and the unpredictability of what might happen tomorrow simply gave him no alternative.

All these people, and so many others, are looking to this government to take the steps that will make their future better than the present. I believe that most people in Ontario are asking, as they read and hear of the government's not-new-at-all plans, "Is this going to do anything at all for me?" It saddens me to say that for most Ontarians the answer is simply no. Tragically, for the more than one-half million Ontarians who cannot find a job, the Premier's plan is not going to bring much relief in the short term or even the long term.

This government's economic plan is aimed at a small élite of the industrial workers of this province. Apart from measures to improve access to the workplace by ending systemic discrimination, the benefits of this strategy, if they are realized at all, will be enjoyed only by unionized workers in mature industries, and the workers in those industries might well question whether this plan does anything for them.

What does this plan do to stimulate the investment the government says is needed? For investment to take place, there must be a renewal of confidence that it makes sense to do business in the province. There is nothing here to renew that sense of confidence. There is simply a fine statement that a strong economy depends on a flourishing business sector. True, it does. But having said that, the government marches steadfastly ahead with the very initiatives that have done so much to erode business confidence in this province. They say they have already listened, that business should stop being so negative, that we should all just cheer up.

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The throne speech does talk about streamlining regulatory systems, and that could indeed be welcome news, since so much time and cost and frustration goes into the process of simply getting approvals, but we have yet to hear what the Sewell commission will propose on land use or how the environmental assessment process will be simplified and expedited. We have certainly not seen much simplification or expeditiousness in this government's management of environmental problems to date.

It is ironic, as I suggested earlier this afternoon, that the one specific recommendation for streamlining regulations is to add resources to the Ontario Municipal Board to deal with its backlog. Is this not the same Ontario Municipal Board to which individuals can appeal decisions of municipalities to open their stores on Sundays? We have sug-

gested in the past that this ridiculous component of an unenforceable piece of legislation would certainly jam the already overloaded Ontario Municipal Board, and it seems the government agrees.

Let me raise again the matter of words and reality. When I see the reference to the Forest Industry Action Group and the innovative solutions this group is to develop, as a northerner, as a former Minister of Natural Resources, as somebody who knows the importance of the forest industry to my part of the province, I believe this is a needed initiative to look at the problems of a besieged sector of our economy. But how can there be solutions when the most significant investment decisions facing one segment of this industry involve the upgrading of technology to meet new environmental regulations and the province won't make its regulatory requirements clear, even when the federal government has already established its guidelines and is requiring compliance?

No wonder the investor gives up. What is the future of this industry anyway as the government cuts back its investment to the long-term health and regeneration of our forests?

We could go on to ask what the throne speech does for mining investment or tourism or the retail sector hit with both cross-border shopping and the recession. What does it do to encourage those 40,000 farmers and so many other people in agriculture to hope that they can make a living, at least a reasonable living, if they keep their farms in production?

The first problem with the Premier's economic plan is that it won't do anything to maintain or create long-term jobs now, when positive measures are urgently needed. The second problem is that it reaches out to only one segment of the economy, one segment of the people. The third problem, perhaps by far the most grave and the most telling, with the NDP economic plan is that it just simply won't work.

Let's take just a moment to examine some of the planks of the structure. At its foundation we have the reforms to the Labour Relations Act. This government has published mountains of paper, some with its partners in the Ontario Federation of Labour, using our tax dollars, trying to convince us that these reforms will improve cooperation between unions and management. Instead, it has become abundantly clear that this legislative project has jeopardized business-labour relations in this province and is threatening to make polarization a permanent part of the Ontario workplace.

It is clear that these reforms, coming at this time, will have a negative impact on investment in this province and could well cost us jobs at a time when we can least afford to lose them. Let me assure the Premier that business is not bluffing when it says that it will leave this province.

Let's look at the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. This initiative is admirable in itself, but it's fatally flawed by the shoehorning of the Premier's political agenda on to the board structure. We are very worried that the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board will be constituted in a manner that is so inhospitable to the business partners that the program uptake will be severely impaired.



We are worried about the financing of this program. The Ontario Federation of Labour is on the record calling for the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board to be financed through an employer training levy. Surely this is not the time to lay on business another payroll tax that will discourage job creation.

Let's look at the Ontario training strategy, as we have done in question periods over the last two days. This is a program that is supposed to reach out to those who are in serious need of help: social assistance recipients. Indeed, we understand that the program is supposed to pay for itself by the saving that will arise from taking people off welfare, but it appears that the program likely will only pay for the training costs of people who have already found a job, or will at best create short-term solutions. The real need is for long-term job creation with training to match the real job opportunities that are there.

Let's look at the capital formation measures of the industrial policy. The tax expenditures that are embodied in the Ontario investment and worker ownership plan seem, on the surface, to be a good idea. As the Premier indicated in his response yesterday, the concepts of this plan have in fact been used to be able to ensure that some jobs at least are retained in industries that have been clearly failing.

The experience, at least to date, suggests that too often workers are only going to be encouraged to invest in companies that are already failing, or that the investment will come as an after-the-fact bailout. We might well ask how much effort will focus on worker investment and cooperative restructuring before the company fails, when the situation is less desperate and can be much more carefully thought through.

Let's examine the Ontario investment fund, which again sounds like a great idea until you start listening closely. The government has responded to the understandable concerns of the public sector pension holders by insisting that the fund will be voluntary. What the Premier doesn't seem to be telling us is that if the fund is voluntary, nobody is likely to volunteer to invest in it. Why? Because it sounds like a way of giving new business access to capital, but it is actually a way of giving government access to capital. The business community is worried about a program where all the spending decisions are made by politicians, civil servants and union leaders, and the pension holders certainly don't appear to be very pleased with it either.

We in the opposition are eager to learn how the Premier plans to take control of these pension funds without coercion. Frankly, we suspect that it is impossible, which will leave the government with negligible funds for financing the investments that it knows are needed.

The throne speech says that the government has already launched an economic renewal plan, an investment strategy to build a stronger future. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, who was speaking about this Ontario industrial strategy to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon last week, spoke of the fundamentals of a sound strategy that would include training, research, investment in technological infrastructure and

developing domestic-based industries. All common sense, and definitely the right words about the right directions.

The minister did also suggest that while he would announce specific initiatives later, they would only be sketched out now, to be developed in future years as the fiscal outlook improves. Does the government not understand that the fiscal outlook will only improve if there is economic renewal now?

In the meantime, the initiatives the government is proceeding with present us with an economic policy that is a shambles. It is supposed to train people for jobs that don't exist and to make investments with money it doesn't have, and all of this is supposed to take place in a setting of serious labour-management discord which is being created by the proposed reforms of the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

This government's industrial policy is not made for Ontario as we know Ontario, and it won't work in Ontario. Ontario needs to build on its strengths as it does anticipate and adapt to the changing realities of today and tomorrow. Change is inevitable. We are experiencing a fundamental restructuring of our traditional economic base, but we manage change by utilizing all of our resources—human and physical.

This government is dismantling the past and is radically reshaping the future without taking its ideological blinders off. This is a future that will leave thousands of Ontarians on the sidelines. It is a dangerous gamble. Not only is the Premier gambling with Ontario's future, he's gone into debt to cover the bet. In this case, NDP politics are not about what we owe each other; they are about what Ontario owes the bank.

1550

We are all well aware of the precarious financial position in which this province finds itself. On January 21, the Premier gave us his commitment that he would bring the 1992 deficit down from \$14.3 billion. Unfortunately, nothing he's indicated in this throne speech gives us any confidence that he and his Treasurer will be able to do so.

The game of moving target that has been the 1991 budgetary process will soon come to a conclusion with the disastrous financial performance of the 1991 fiscal year, finally locking in at what is still an indeterminate deficit position. The Premier and the Treasurer built their last budget more on a wish and a prayer than on any realistic financial projections. They hoped the recession would bottom out before the third quarter of 1991 and that their figures would look better than they actually do. The government gambled heavily and it lost.

They have now presented us with a second throne speech, a precursor of the second budget, which presents the government with equally unacceptable choices. It is not an enviable position, but I do hope this government will at least begin to accept responsibility for the tough choices that must be made and the consequences of its decisions. What we have seen to date is the Premier's desperate attempt to prepare Ontario for a disastrous budget by shifting the blame for the problems elsewhere.

I want to emphasize that I make absolutely no apologies for the federal Conservatives; that is the unhappy



responsibility of my colleague the leader of the provincial Conservative Party. I wish him well in discharging that rather onerous duty.

Federal government policies, however disastrous, cannot be seen as a sufficient explanation of Ontario's economic difficulties. Simply laying blame is certainly not a sufficient response to Ontario's needs. While I do not excuse the federal actions, I do expect that the provincial government will make its own realistic plans based on a realistic assessment of transfers. I do expect that the discussions between the federal and the provincial governments can at least maintain some semblance of a reasonable discussion between relatively reasonable people. Instead, we have been presented with a spectacle that has produced a profound disenchantment among Ontarians. Memo wars and press leaks are no way to solve the serious problems that not only besiege our economies but threaten to break apart our country.

While the Premier fights with the federal government over who gets to tax us more, his government here in Ontario is slashing health services. Let me state clearly that I do not argue, as my friends in the NDP used to do, that every health dollar is sacrosanct or that saving money in health care is a threat to medicare. What is threatening is that the government's dreadful lack of foresight led it to give hospitals, for example, an 8% increase last year and then a 1% increase this year. Staff layoffs, bed closures, service reductions: What else can you expect when this kind of wrenching policy shift occurs?

Desperate situations led to desperate decisions. The difference between sound, orderly, well-planned reallocation of resources and wholesale abandonment of services is time to adjust and review, which the government has not given people who deliver health care in Ontario. Instead of rationalizations that will make the system more efficient, the government is giving us decimation which could well end up costing us all, Mr Treasurer, a great deal more in the long term.

Again, all we have seen from government is an almost unbelievable shifting of responsibility from the government to the service providers, as hospitals and school boards are told that they should somehow be able to manage the financial constraints with no reduction in services.

Now is not the time to go further into the concerns we in the opposition have with the government's fiscal policies. We have some weeks prior to the anticipated presentation of the budget in which to explore all these concerns in some detail, and I can assure the Treasurer it is our intention to do so, and then there will be ample opportunity for a full discussion when the 1992 budget is introduced.

I am looking forward to the further debate on this throne speech because I really do believe that taking part in legislative debate, and taking part in it seriously, is a way in which we take public policy seriously. I want the Premier to know that my colleagues and I are looking forward to a substantive discussion on the government's agenda over the next two weeks and indeed over the next two or more years.

But a good discussion involves different viewpoints. I am sure the Premier heard within his party different view-

points on how to proceed as he and his advisers prepared this throne speech, so I hope that in this debate the members of the government will do justice to the fact that there are alternatives to the course the government has laid out. I don't want the debate on this throne speech or on other matters of policy to degenerate into a mere recitation of the NDP mantra, "There is no alternative." Of course there are alternatives, and as the government's mandate begins to wind down over the next few years, we in the Liberal Party will be developing and expressing our alternative policies with increasing comprehensiveness and forcefulness. The deputy House leader has today presented the Treasurer with at least one constructive option to which he might want to give due consideration as he develops his budget.

When I announced my candidacy for the leadership of our party, I spoke about the cynicism that people are feeling about politics and about the political process. I believe we must do what we can to overcome that cynicism and to restore confidence in the integrity of the political process. We know for our part, and I say this in all candour, that we must regain the trust of Ontarians and that we cannot do that simply by being opposition for opposition's sake.

Some members opposite have perhaps wondered whether my election as leader signals the start of a kinder, gentler opposition. If that suggests in any way that we might be less likely to hold this government accountable, the belief should be put quickly to rest. The times are simply too critical and the responsibilities too great for gentleness. We intend to be tough and demanding, but we will also be fair. We will argue the merits of the government's proposals, and we will look for balance and common sense along with a genuine openness to understand different perspectives. We will offer more than criticism, presenting our own alternatives and preserving our integrity in opposition by not calling on the government to do what we do not believe we would do if we had the opportunity to govern again.

If there is one lesson our friends opposite have taught us, it's that what may seem possible or simple to promise in opposition may be virtually impossible to deliver in government. When the member for York South said in 1990 that he would end the need for food banks within a year, he was making a promise that he could not keep, but I recall the member for York South also said, "People do not want politicians who make promises they cannot keep." I believe that was true then, and I believe it is even more true today.

1600

As concerned as I am about the directions this government has set out in its speech from the throne, I do not want to increase the cynicism that people feel about politicians and their promises by indulging in easy opposition politics. We want to be able to present alternatives. We want to begin to define these policies. To do that we have begun an extensive process of policy development.

My colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt has been given an additional responsibility to go with his duties as treasury critic. He will also chair our caucus committee on economic policy. This committee will develop

concrete proposals on building investor confidence in Ontario's economy and getting people back to work.

I have also appointed the member for Mississauga West as our critic for small business. He will be working with people in the independent business community to build policies that will respond to their serious concerns and give them the opportunity to start creating new jobs again.

I have created a new economic critic portfolio dealing with research, technology, training and skills development. This portfolio will be handled by the member for Timiskaming and his job will be to develop the ideas that link research to the development of business in new technology fields, a critical area of economic development that's given only passing mention in the throne speech.

My friend and colleague the opposition House leader will be chairing our caucus committee on rural development. He will bring his unmatched understanding of the rural economy and rural Ontario issues to bear on problems of that other Ontario that has no place in the NDP master plan.

My colleague the member for York Centre will chair the Liberal caucus committee on urban development with responsibility for the GTA and the transportation issues that are so critical to the appropriate development of Ontario's cities. Working with his group in consultation with experts across the entire spectrum of urban development, the member for York Centre will be developing the policies that will replace the NDP's command-and-control approach to urban development and harness the positive forces that can make our cities better places in which to live.

I will mention only one other aspect of our caucus organization, and that is that my colleague the member for York North will chair the Liberal caucus committee on the Constitution. He joins the Premier in Halifax today, at the invitation of the Premier to our caucus, to be able to participate in all the discussions on the constitutional proposals. We appreciate that invitation and will certainly participate. Our colleague, with the support of all of us, will examine in detail the work of this government in our current constitutional negotiations, developing our input and offering the constructive proposals I know the Premier welcomes at this critical time in our country's history.

I have laid out today the opposition's main concern with the government's policies, as embodied not only in the throne speech but in 18 months of government. Clearly we bring a different perspective and a different approach to

making the choices that must be made, to setting the priorities that will guide the choices, to managing the critical issues of the day.

I believe politics are not about what we owe each other; they are about what we can do together. We in our party have a commitment to bringing people together and mobilizing them to meet challenges together. It is a philosophy that I commend to this government. It is one that my party and I will fight for, not just because we are here to offer opposition, but because we are deeply concerned about the future of this province.

Having expressed some of my views in these matters, which I consider to be of importance in the conduct of our business, having also expressed my dissatisfaction and disappointment with the leadership that has come from this government, it is my duty to move, seconded by the member for Renfrew North, this amendment to the motion.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Mrs McLeod moves that the motion be amended by adding the following thereto:

"That this House regrets that the speech from the throne simply confirms the government's inability to provide a clear strategy to reinvigorate Ontario's economy, stimulate economic investment, create permanent jobs, tackle welfare and unemployment lines, and condemns the government for:

"Failing to acknowledge and understand the recession's impact on the people of Ontario and instead sacrificing legitimate policy goals for an ideologically driven agenda; failing to rebuild partnerships with business by postponing changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act until meaningful consultation on the proposed changes has occurred; failing to provide real and effective cost containment strategies to control government spending; ignoring the need to address the government's crumbling standards of integrity, and failing to limit additional growth in the already unacceptable provincial deficit to ensure that the credit rating is not further eroded and investor confidence is not further undermined."

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I do not think anything else can be said today. I move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion by Mr Harris, the debate was adjourned.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I think something else can be said today. I move the adjournment of the House.

On motion by Mr Laughren, the House adjourned at 1607.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	<b>Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud</b>	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	<b>Brown, Michael A.</b>	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	<b>Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances</b>	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	<b>McClelland, Carman</b>	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	<b>Callahan, Robert V.</b>	L	
Brant-Haldimand	<b>Eddy, Ron</b>	L	
Brantford	<b>Ward, Brad</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	<b>Elston, Murray J.</b>	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	<b>Jackson, Cameron</b>	PC	
Cambridge	<b>Farnan, Mike</b>	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton East/-Est	<b>Morin, Gilles E.</b>	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	<b>Sterling, Norman W.</b>	PC	
Chatham-Kent	<b>Hope, Randy R.</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	<b>Wood, Len</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	<b>Bisson, Gilles</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	<b>Cleary, John C.</b>	L	
Don Mills	<b>Ward, Margery</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	<b>Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony</b>	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	<b>Perruzza, Anthony</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	<b>Tilson, David</b>	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	<b>White, Drummond</b>	ND	
Durham East/-Est	<b>Mills, Gord</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	<b>Wiseman, Jim</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	<b>O'Connor, Lawrence</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	<b>Poole, Dianne</b>	L	
Elgin	<b>North, Hon/L'hon Peter</b>	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	<b>Hayes, Pat</b>	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	<b>Mancini, Remo</b>	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	<b>Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.</b>	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	<b>Henderson, D. James</b>	L	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziembra, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale



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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 9 April 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le jeudi 9 avril 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





## **Table of Contents**

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## **Table des matières**

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste alphabétique de députés de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 9 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### ADVOCACY AND GUARDIANSHIP

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** The standing committee on administration of justice has recently conducted public hearings on bills dealing with substitute decision-making, consent to health care treatment, living wills and provision of advocacy services. The hearings attracted more intervenors than those on Sunday shopping, and every single organization representing people who deliver health care services in Ontario asked that the bills be redrafted.

Doctors, hospitals, nurses, optometrists, dentists, the Victorian Order of Nurses, nursing homes and rest and retirement homes all provided evidence that timely and humane health care could not be provided were these bills to advance in their present form. Organizations such as the Ontario Friends of Schizophrenics and the Alzheimer Association of Ontario pleaded for major redrafting of these bills. Pharmaceutical manufacturers, individuals who are involved on a daily basis with medical-legal ethics questions and people who work with vulnerable people all asked for substantial and substantive change.

There is no time urgency to these bills. There is urgency, however, in ensuring that new laws are practical, affordable and reasonable, that they do not harm people and that their principles are respected. I am calling on the Minister of Health, the Attorney General, the Minister of Citizenship and the Treasurer to show some grace, judgement and flexibility with respect to these bills, to withdraw and to redraft, because this is bad legislation and it will hurt rather than help the people of Ontario.

### CAMPAIGN WATERLOO

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** On Tuesday, April 7, I was pleased to join the University of Waterloo in launching an ambitious fund-raising campaign to raise \$89 million. These funds will be used for teaching and research positions, for student projects and for establishing and enhancing research and training facilities in key areas such as environmental science and engineering, optometry and accounting.

What is most impressive about Campaign Waterloo is that they have already raised approximately \$30 million, one third of their goal for this five-year campaign.

The students have pledged \$12 million. They are to be commended for their commitment to the university's future. At a time when it is becoming more difficult to offer a quality education because of budget cutbacks and increasing costs, it is encouraging to see the leadership of the students and their recognition of the long-term value of their education.

One of the most important initiatives will be the creation of an environmental science and engineering facility. The Premier has indicated that he is looking into providing the university with assistance in establishing this important teaching and research facility. I would like to urge him to do so.

Universities play a very important role in the social and economic development of our province. Faced with decreasing provincial support, the University of Waterloo is to be congratulated for initiating this ambitious fund-raising campaign to help prepare our young people for jobs that will make for a better and more competitive Ontario and Canada.

### CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

**Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton):** I rise today to pay tribute in a sense to the members of the select committee on Ontario in Confederation. I must say it was my pleasure as the Chair of that committee to work within a framework of non-partisan spirit. We were able, over a period of about a year in all, to be responsive to the questions, the themes and the issues that were raised by the people of Ontario. Now that the final report has come out from that committee, I have to say it is my hope that this report will be the groundwork for discussions in various ridings across the province.

Last week in my own riding of Victoria-Haliburton, I spoke with the students of the Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute. At that time I was able to talk about the major issues that are confronting our nation and the future hopes to have a unified Canada. I was impressed by the things they said and by their commitment to the future of this country.

It is my hope that as we continue to discuss these things, a growing consensus will arise not only in Ontario but in this country so that we can continue to look forward to a united Canada and a prosperous future for all Canadians.

### PAY EQUITY

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** The minister—the member for Nepean.

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I look forward to the day you can address me in the way you just did.

Yesterday my leader made reference to a letter to the Premier from Dr Peter George, president of the Council of Ontario Universities. In his letter, Dr George expressed the university community's extreme frustration at the Premier's unwillingness even to meet with the heads of our universities. Adding further insult to injury, the NDP government has just announced an \$8-million cut in pay equity grants to universities.

"We were promised reimbursement for the cost of implementing provincial pay equity legislation. The money the Treasurer is now pledging is mere tokenism. It will not even partially meet the substantial costs of implementing



the plan and adjusting employee salaries." These are the words of the president of the Council of Ontario Universities.

It's obvious the NDP government has abandoned its commitment to university education. Not one word was said in the throne speech about universities and how crucial they are on our road back to long-term economic recovery. Now they have been stung with yet another cutback in funding. The pay equity reduction comes on top of the \$9.2-million cutback in university operating funds announced last fall.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF VIMY RIDGE

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** Today is the 75th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, and we are reminded of what it means to be a Canadian. As Canadians, we are fortunate to know the meaning of freedom and democracy. Those who fought at Vimy Ridge did so to make the world safe for freedom of culture, religion and ideology.

We have not learned the lesson of the First World War, that living with each other is far better than killing. Today the world has become marginally tolerant of those who are different from us. Instead of learning about other cultures, there are those who opt for control through oppression or elimination through genocide.

1340

Canada is upheld as an example of how different cultures, religions and ideologies can live and work together. We are a model to the world. However, this international acclaim is being eroded because some persist in keeping alive hatreds once left behind in an old country. Canada offered refuge to many cultures since Vimy Ridge. We were here to let all people start over, to say goodbye to the pain and anguish of war. We must work together to end oppression and suffering of our fellow men and women. There are peaceful solutions. Killing is not the answer.

As Canadians, we should remember those who bravely fought and gave their lives at Vimy Ridge. Their heroic efforts allowed the Allied forces to succeed when all else failed. We should also remember that celebrating a victory came at the loss of lives on both sides. So as we remember all wars let us keep in mind those who lost their lives in battles, those who died at the hands of oppressors and those who died because of their culture or religion.

KEN MacINNIS

**Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West):** Just a little over a week ago I had the pleasure of attending the retirement dinner in honour of Ken MacInnis, who was retiring from his position as chief administrative officer at the Ajax and Pickering General Hospital. Ken came to that position in 1957. Over that time Ken has had the privilege of working with many ministers of Health.

During his tenure as chief administrative officer of the Ajax and Pickering General Hospital Ken officiated over one complete expansion and began the current expansion of the hospital. For those people who had contact with Ken over the years, they know that he was always frugal with the taxpayers' dollars and was always looking for the most efficient way to achieve the goal of better health and

wellbeing for the residents of Ajax and Pickering who from time to time came to the hospital for care.

As Ajax and Pickering grew in population, the need for a larger facility became apparent, and for the last decade or so Ken and the board of directors of the Ajax and Pickering General Hospital have been planning and working on the expansion of the hospital. To say that they have been persistent in their request for an expansion is an understatement and does not adequately describe the strength of purpose shown by the community and led by Ken MacInnis.

On a personal note, my political education about matters pertaining to the need for the expansion began almost immediately after the election. My first contact with the hospital board was almost right away.

I know the residents of Ajax and Pickering would like to thank Ken for his 34 years of loyal service, and I wish him, on their behalf and mine, a healthy and happy retirement.

#### ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** Individuals and families in Niagara who have suffered the damaging and debilitating effect of alcohol and drug addiction are distraught by the news that the Ministry of Health will cut its financial support for the alcohol and drug treatment centre in St Catharines, eliminating programs which have rehabilitated people, restoring their sense of self-worth and helping them become responsible, productive members of the community.

With the withdrawal of OHIP funding for such services outside the country, referrals to Ontario centres have increased dramatically; at the same time, the ministry may terminate funding for aftercare services and severely restrict its allocation for other needed programs.

The dire social, medical and financial consequences for communities of the inadequate funding of this essential health care service are clear. With a waiting time of more than three months for the start of treatment and the possibility that our centre and others in Ontario will be forced to turn away patients needing medical care, the minister should review her priorities and assign appropriate funding to a highly successful treatment program performed by dedicated health care professionals in our part of the province.

It would be tragic indeed if the modest sum to meet this genuine need would be denied while thousands of dollars are spent on self-serving government advertising and on OPP investigations of embarrassing leaks of government secrets and on redecorating the government caucus room.

#### TOBACCO TAXES

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** Yesterday the government of Canada did the right thing by removing the \$8-a-carton tax on exported cigarettes. By using other methods to deal with smuggling, the removal of the tax will help preserve farms and jobs in the tobacco industry.

Surely this government, and this Treasurer in particular, must recognize that high taxes do not deter smokers. High taxes simply lead people to buy cigarettes in the US

or even to purchase smuggled cigarettes where no taxes are collected at all.

The government of New Brunswick has realized this and in its last budget slashed tobacco taxes by 25%. This will definitely reduce cross-border shopping and will also be a positive move for tourism. We all know that the major reasons for crossing the border are gas, alcohol and cigarette prices.

The government of Ontario, according to rumours, is looking at another big tobacco tax grab in its upcoming budget. At this time of crisis in our tobacco belt, and indeed in agriculture, any tax increase would be tragic and a horrible mistake, Mr Treasurer. I hope you're listening.

Ontario would best follow the example of New Brunswick. High taxes have already led to stores being robbed for their cigarettes, and even duty-free shops are going broke. If the Treasurer wants to maintain income from tobacco sales and maintain jobs in Ontario, he must realize that increasing the taxes will not do it.

#### SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

**Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre):** Today I rise to acknowledge the work of an agency that has contributed to the wellbeing of many of my constituents. For the past 10 years, Scarborough Community Legal Services has provided a variety of services to those in need. These services include summary legal advice, legal representation, community organization, community education and, most important, law reform work.

In an effort to make systemic changes, they actively lobby all levels of government, participate in test cases and provide educational programs. They have promoted changes to programs and legislation to benefit the people they serve. Some of the issues these dedicated clinic workers have confronted are domestic violence, immigration issues, income maintenance, tenant concerns in private rental and major tenant issues in the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority.

The staff of Scarborough Community Legal Services includes Merle Abrahamse, Maggie Bekele, Jacque Buncel, Elizabeth Klassen, Linda Mitchell, Linda Van Deuren, Nancy Vander Plaats and Peggine Walden. All these individuals have worked diligently to provide legal services to the low-income people of Scarborough. In doing so, they bring dignity to those who live a most marginalized existence in this society.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to the House Linda Mitchell from Scarborough Community Legal Services and her daughter, Darron Bunt.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### HEALTH SERVICES

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy):** Over the past few months, I have been stressing how urgent it is for a number of reasons—because of reduced federal transfer payments, because of the declining provincial tax revenues due to the economic recession and because of years of uncontrolled growth in health

spending—to fast-track the restructuring of our health system, and our hospital system in particular.

The three factors I mentioned I believe are a threat to our national health care system. We have been left with no other choice, in this province and in fact in every province, but to quickly become more cost-efficient, more affordable in the service we deliver, and to ensure that we maintain high-quality health care at all times.

The accelerated restructuring of Ontario's hospital and health care system is now under way in every region of this province. The process involves finding more ways to provide services and programs to avoid duplications in services to try and remove waste from our system, to look at more outpatient and day surgery procedures, to look at shorter hospital stays and a shift from hospital-based services to appropriate community-based care.

Those concepts aren't new. Those programs, those shifts, have been started in our system. We are now faced with pressures that mean we need to accelerate the moves in that direction. There are compelling reasons to proceed with this restructuring, and our objectives—besides cost control, which is only one objective, and I want to stress that—are to develop more appropriate, accessible, affordable, community-based health care to meet the needs of communities and regions, to improve the quality of health care in Ontario and to ensure the preservation of Ontario's medicare system.

Mr Speaker, you will remember that earlier this year, at the end of January, the Treasurer announced \$160 million in transition assistance to assist the major transfer sectors, such as schools and universities, the colleges and the hospitals, in sustaining essential services and employment during this restructuring process. This money was in addition to the transfer payments the Treasurer provided to the sector this year.

1350

Today I am pleased to inform you that my ministry has been allocated \$95 million from this fund. This will be allocated as follows:

There will be \$49 million to meet the demands of essential services such as dialysis and bone marrow transplants; to meet designated life support program needs such as chemotherapy for cancer and cardiac surgery, and to cover costs for new programs that have recently been approved in the past year that will be coming on stream in the next year.

The additional \$46 million will be to promote the accelerated shift from institution-based services to outpatient and community care; to meet hospital needs for increased demand for service in areas of the province that are experiencing high population growth and the pressures that this places on our institutions in that area, and to reduce the historical funding inequities faced by some hospitals that have been cost-efficient and productive in their operations.

This additional funding helps preserve both essential services during this restructuring period and jobs for people who provide those services. Earlier this year I called on hospital management and hospital workers to become full working partners with us in this difficult task of managing the change that is taking place in our health care system.



There are examples throughout the province of hospitals that are undergoing successful restructuring and have managed to close beds and cut some jobs through attrition without reducing the quality of services and the services available to their communities. Members heard about some of these examples in Monday's speech from the throne. However, for many hospitals it has been a very stressful time and there has not been as much partnership and cooperation among management and workers as I am seeking.

In the past few months we have worked closely with hospital workers and their unions, with representatives of hospitals and their association to create a sound labour adjustment strategy, a workable plan that will produce results for those whose jobs are affected by restructuring. But I am calling for a more uniform cooperation, more collaboration among management and workers in all hospitals in the province to tackle the restructuring task at hand.

To this end, my ministry has established a committee of ministry, union and hospital representatives to develop guidelines that can be adapted for the specific use of individual hospitals. These guidelines, among other things, will make very clear the level of employee involvement the ministry expects in hospital budget and operational planning.

To further encourage partnership and collaboration, I am pleased to announce today that my ministry will be contributing a \$30-million fund for the labour adjustment plan. This plan will provide counselling and job search assistance for laid-off hospital employees and retraining and relocation assistance for employees once parties have successfully concluded contract negotiations.

I believe this government has clearly shown its commitment to labour adjustment. The \$30-million fund is a visible incentive to all parties to continue discussions towards affordable collective bargaining outcomes.

I do understand that it has been a most painful transition for many people. I've talked to many individuals who have lost their hospital jobs. In the next few weeks I expect to meet with workers, unions and hospital officials to try to iron out the best choices possible for hospital employees. To succeed, all of us, health care consumers, providers, workers, district health councils, governments, must work together in a spirit of cooperation and partnership.

The managed restructuring of the hospital system is now necessary if we are to preserve the medicare system we cherish. It is an investment in the future on behalf of future generations of Ontario.

#### PLANNING APPROVAL

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** This province is home to a host of builders, planners, architects, developers and tradespeople who over the years have built a strong and enviable industry. That expertise and those resources remain, but more than 70,000 jobs in the construction industry have been lost to the recession.

That's why it is now more important than ever to build on the industry's expertise and strength. One of the ways this government can help the industry and the people of

this province is to remove unnecessary obstacles that thwart good public and private development projects.

While I toured the province over the last couple of months, local politicians, members of the construction industry, developers and municipal lawyers alike have echoed a common concern: The province's planning approvals process does not work. It is too long and too confusing and it is costing us jobs.

Representatives of some of the key organizations interested in the planning process are in the gallery today. Allow me to introduce David Weinberg of the CIBC Development Corp, Al Libfeld of the Ontario Home Builders' Association, Howard Moscoe of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and John Stefanini of the Labourers' International Union, Local 183.

The announcement I am making today is the government's land use planning contribution to the economic recovery. Allow me to tell the House about the immediate steps we are taking to speed up the planning decision-making process.

First of all, we are simplifying the way government approves development project applications. We need a quicker, smarter way of determining whether a project should be approved. We are establishing criteria for decision-making that means desirable, ready-to-go projects are not delayed.

Teams of planners across the province from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Culture and Communications will work together for the first time to decide on development applications. At the same time, each of those ministries will speed up its own turnaround time. This is an improvement over the current system in which builders often wait for many months for an answer to their applications.

These teams, led by Municipal Affairs, will set priorities for provincial decisions based on good planning, protection of the environment and job creation. They will prepare coordinated provincial positions on new official plans and identify major projects whose merits allow them to be fast-tracked.

The principles of good planning, including environmental safeguards, will continue to be the foundation of every land use decision. Let me be clear: Accelerating the decision-making process does not mean that projects will be approved that would not have been approved in the past. What it does mean, however, is that a decision will be made sooner.

Another frustration I've heard while meeting with people on the road or in my office is that the province has not clearly articulated its criteria for good planning. To address this, every ministry involved in the review process will release guidelines setting out standards and approval requirements for plans and projects. People will know up front what the rules are.

The commission on planning and development reform in Ontario is currently working on a new Planning Act. In the interim, however, we will set out for the first time basic



principles for planning that are in tune with the direction the commission is taking. These principles will guide municipalities in preparing their official plans. By releasing our principles of good planning now, we will be able to apply them to the 200 new and amended official plans expected in the next two years while the commission completes its mandate.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs will soon be releasing its streamlining guidelines: a set of practical tips, recommendations and techniques to avoid delays and duplication in the planning review process. Builders whose projects are non-controversial—that is, proposals which do not require policy changes or pose threats to the environment—will get answers from the government agencies in 90 days. These guidelines will make the existing system more efficient as we wait for the Sewell commission to present its recommendations.

I will be introducing amendments shortly to the Planning Act that will enable municipalities to make certain planning decisions locally. In addition, amendments will be made to give the public 60 days after notification of adoption to refer an official plan to the Ontario Municipal Board. This initiative is meant not to discourage referrals but to prevent undue uncertainty in the approvals process. Currently, projects which have been in the pipeline for a long time have often been derailed at the last minute by appeals. My ministry will continue to delegate subdivision and condominium approvals to certain municipalities.

In response to concerns voiced by municipalities in the development industry, we will also review technical issues related to the implementation of the municipal development charges.

Members of the House heard in the speech from the throne earlier this week that the government had appointed a facilitator to move vital capital projects through the regulatory process. I am pleased to introduce in the gallery today Mr Dale Martin, who will lead the government's efforts to speed up decision-making on major priority projects.

1400

The Palladium project in Ottawa-Carleton, which still faces multiple approvals, is the kind of project Mr Martin will be working on. It is estimated that the Palladium project could generate \$203 million in construction expenditures and create more than 2,000 jobs over the next two years. Mr Martin will facilitate that kind of project as well as other capital works such as public transit projects in Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr Martin is well known for his contribution to Toronto and Metro councils, where his creative work succeeded in getting projects built while ensuring that environmental and social goals were met. His job will be to cut the red tape and get good projects moving. In case there is any doubt, the Palladium project is the first project that has been referred to Mr Martin.

The Ontario Municipal Board continues to play a vital role in land use planning matters. The number of cases it considers has increased significantly over the last five or six years. The board's current backlog is unacceptable and the lengthy hearing delays must be curtailed. The chair-

man, members of the board and the staff of the OMB are working to reduce these delays.

This government will provide the board with additional staff and almost \$200,000 more to manage its case load and clear the existing backlog. The goal is to significantly reduce the backlog and cut the waiting period for a hearing from the current 15 to 18 months to six to nine months. The government has transferred the administration of the Ontario Municipal Board from the Ministry of the Attorney General back to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The reporting relationship is for administrative purposes only. The board will, of course, continue to operate as an independent tribunal.

It is clear we are committed to speeding up the planning approvals process so that important projects can come on stream quickly: We have appointed a facilitator to direct those projects through the system, we are putting resources into clearing up the backlog at the Ontario Municipal Board and we are simplifying the system.

This initiative could free up billions of dollars of private sector investment and create thousands of jobs in Ontario. While these steps simplifying the planning approvals process are an interim step, I look forward to the day when the new planning commission provides this province with a new, efficient and accessible Planning Act.

## RESPONSES

### PLANNING APPROVAL

**Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East):** I'm pleased that Mr Dale Martin didn't have to wait too long for an appointment. Other NDPs have been on the waiting list for some time. I am pleased to hear the minister say that Mr Martin will become a facilitator.

Interjection.

**Mr Grandmaître:** Those are the words of the minister: "a facilitator." I've known Mr Martin for the last seven years and I know he is not an ally of the OMB; that's for sure. Project X is still in limbo because of Mr Martin. I find it very strange the minister thinks this man will improve the system.

I agree with the minister that the system needs to be streamlined and that the process and principles of good planning in this province need to be fine-tuned. I congratulate him for that, but I find it very strange that he would appoint such a man as Mr Martin, who has been an enemy of the OMB since his first day on Metro council.

I find it very strange that now that he's a member of the government—finally he's a member of the NDP government—he will be the facilitator to speed up the process of the Palladium project in Ottawa-Carleton. The government spent thousands and thousands of dollars to fight the project and now it is going to pay Mr Martin a handsome sum to speed up the process. I find this ridiculous.

### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** We note with interest that the Minister of Health has finally come forward with \$95 million in transition funding for hospitals. I remind the minister that Ontario hospitals have



indicated over a long period that at least \$231 million was needed to meet the needs of their vital programs in small hospitals, in life support, chronic care, new programs, hospital incentives and growth and equity funding.

The hospital sector has also indicated its concern that the Minister of Health has failed to recognize the role of hospitals in community-based care. While the minister has indicated that part of \$46 million will be used to promote the accelerated shift from institution-based services to outpatient and community care, we also note there are no parameters for that shift. There has yet been no indication of the place of hospitals in the government's long-term care strategy, nor have we seen the government's view of chronic care hospitals in long-term care delivery. The role study of chronic care sits quite apart and separate from long-term care strategy as a whole.

The minister has announced \$30 million in a labour adjustment fund to cope with restructuring, which means downsizing. Fifty million dollars is what the hospitals told the minister was needed, and I remind her that the Service Employees' International Union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union are now in arbitration, creating additional dollar pressures which can only lead to additional increased downsizing.

Since 1990, 5,100 hospital beds have closed and 8,000 people have been put out of work. Most of them are women. With this announcement it's very interesting to note there's no funding for pay equity. Indeed, the fact that there is no funding for pay equity creates additional pressures on hospitals which will inevitably lead to increased downsizing. Once again women get short shrift from this government.

I hope when the minister goes out to speak with the workers, the unions and the hospital officials she will address those questions about who is being laid off and where additional funds are coming from.

The entire issue of downsizing brings us to another point, because with a 1% transfer it is very clear the minister is insisting on a restructuring. As I've indicated, that means bed closings across the province, yet we have seen no approach, no directive, no guidelines, no broad policy approaches from this minister that will ensure equity in hospital services across the province. What we will begin to see, and I believe we are seeing already, is a massive distortion in access to and equity in health services across Ontario.

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I am pleased to respond to the Minister of Health's announcement today. Minister, I find in your own admission that your announcement today will do nothing to prevent the random service cuts, bed closures and job losses that have continued to plague the health care system in Ontario under your leadership and that of your government.

Not to let the Liberals off the hook, I want to mention that the 1990 figures for layoffs were 1,124 layoffs in the hospital sector and 1,228 bed closures. In 1991-92 we saw an additional 2,738 people laid off and an additional 1,570 bed closures, and in 1992-93 there is a projection from the

Ontario Hospital Association of an additional 4,000 job layoffs and 2,300 additional bed closures.

Minister, in your announcement you say you're going to provide counselling and job search assistance for laid-off workers. I tell you, that does nothing to put food on the tables of those families who've experienced layoffs.

Finally, I want to say that the outcome of the current negotiations between SEIU, CUPE and OPSEU, some 60,000 workers, by anybody's estimate will likely result in more than the \$30 million you've allocated today.

Again today, Minister, you've failed to provide leadership in the health care crisis. Repeated attempts by myself, my colleagues in the other party, the Ontario Hospital Association and other health care providers to press you for a comprehensive management plan have failed. Today you had an opportunity to bring forward that plan and you've not done so. Again, your announcement is too late for workers already laid off and it pays only lip service to those who will be laid off this year.

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#### PLANNING APPROVAL

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I'd like to respond with regard to the Palladium and the Ottawa Senators. After this government has held up the fans for about \$2 million in the Ottawa area, after this government has held up the taxpayers for about \$2 million, I find the minister's statement preposterous. I wish he'd made an apology to this Legislature. All I can say is, what a joke.

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** I cannot believe the Minister of Municipal Affairs does not have his act together. What kind of crap are you trying on us now? You picked somebody from the city—

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order. Take your seat, please. I find this word offensive. I ask you not to use it.

**Mr Murdoch:** Whatever it is, whatever you want to call it then, it's not worth the paper it's written on. Mr Minister, if you don't know what's going on in this province by now—you've got Sewell running around and he doesn't know what he's doing. Now you appoint somebody else in the city who won't know what he's doing. You're not looking after rural Ontario at all. Where do you get the right to pick and choose who you feel should get to the OMB? This is totally ridiculous and I think you should withdraw this whole thing or resign.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** I'd like to read from the Toronto Star of September 15, 1990. The member for York South stated: "We want to appoint people of ability and talent without any regard to their previous political affiliation. We're trying to create a different atmosphere. We're very much aware of how the public feels about it. The key thing is public confidence, public trust. The public has to have a sense that the system is on the up and up."

Mr Martin, who was a known NDP member of the Toronto city council and Metropolitan Toronto council, who's going to facilitate the OMB, in fact took a development to the OMB. Let's examine the World Trade Centre.

He went to the OMB with a vexatious and frivolous action and was dismissed at the OMB, costing thousands and thousands of dollars, and was accused of abusing the process. It was taken to the Supreme Court of Ontario. They upheld the decision. The man you've put in charge to speed up the OMB has spent a lifetime slowing the process down.

Mr Minister, there are some appointments I can buy into. I respect Mr Martin, but I do not respect the fact that you can appoint this individual to speed up a process that he has in fact spent immense time ruining at public expense. Finally, we talk about patronage and pork-barrelling, another NDPer appointed. These people are so deep in the trough they need snorkels to breathe.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### CONTAMINATED LANDFILL

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** Today's headline in the evening edition of the Toronto Star about our grim green future and the release of a new report saying that Canada's natural environment continues to be destroyed at an alarming rate leads to my question to the Minister of the Environment. It has come to my attention that a significant amount of petroleum-contaminated landfill is being dumped this week on the shores of Hamilton harbour with the concurrence of the Hamilton Harbour Commission. This is occurring despite regulations under the Environmental Protection Act requiring that contaminated landfill be disposed of in a licensed landfill site. I ask the minister to confirm that this is indeed an illegal activity under regulation 301 of the Environmental Protection Act and ask if she will advise the House what action she is currently taking to halt this illegal action.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** I am not aware of the action that the honourable Leader of the Opposition identifies. I am certainly as concerned as she is. If the facts as she reports them are correct, I can give her my complete assurance that I will take whatever action is necessary to make sure that illegal dumping in Lake Ontario is discontinued.

**Mrs McLeod:** It's hard to believe that this is the same minister who, on an earlier day with a different hat on, so strongly chastised the Toronto Harbour Commissioners for exactly the same activity. It was just Monday of this week—the same day, according to our understanding, that the trucks started to dump their hazardous waste—that the minister introduced her new Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency Act, which, according to her comments to the Legislature, would champion the ecological integrity of the waterfront.

I do find it hard to believe that the minister is not aware of this reprehensible violation, given her long-standing opposition to this type of activity. I am also somewhat surprised that her officials in Hamilton whom we contacted this morning were also not aware of this activity and have not indicated to the minister that some investigation has begun. I would ask the minister how it is possible that she

could not be aware of this activity, and what action she will now take to investigate and to pursue the issue.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I appreciate the fact that the Leader of the Opposition identifies that when she contacted my Hamilton office today, it was not aware of it. That, I think, is why I am not aware of it, and I very much appreciate the member bringing it to my attention.

I don't know whether the rules of the House permit the Leader of the Opposition to stand down her third question until I immediately find out the situation and then can give her an answer. But I want to say to the House that if the facts are as she reports them, I entirely share her concern and want to make sure those actions cease if they are illegal and I would very much appreciate the opportunity to make myself aware of the fact and respond to the leader's questions as soon as I can do that.

**Mrs McLeod:** How can we begin to believe in the integrity of the commitments that the NDP government makes in presenting its Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency Act and in talking about preserving the ecological integrity of the waterfront if in fact the minister and her ministry are not even aware of this kind of activity taking place? Once again, the promises made in the Legislature and the realities in communities across the province just don't seem to fit, and the words don't match the music.

I would ask the minister to assure this House that there are not similar activities taking place in other areas and that this kind of activity in which this illegal violation can take place will not occur again.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I wish I could assure the Leader of the Opposition that I was aware of every illegal activity against the environment that's taking place across the province. I am not. But I am very proud of the fact that when we are aware of illegal activity, the ministry investigates, the ministry prosecutes. Just this week an industry in the Niagara Peninsula paid a \$300,000 fine for illegal activity. I appreciate that these facts have been brought to my attention. I will ascertain the facts as soon as I possibly can, and I will give the member an answer about what is happening in Hamilton harbour just as soon as I can.

**Mrs McLeod:** We'll look forward to the minister bringing that information back to the House.

### CAPITAL FUNDING

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** I would like to ask at this time a question of the Treasurer, again to pursue an issue about the relationship between statements that are made in the House and in the throne speech and what is actually taking place.

Earlier this week the Premier stated his intention, and again it was a headline in the local papers, that he would be spending billions on capital projects in order to create jobs. It certainly seems to be a good-news message and one that would be very welcome, yet once again we're not aware exactly of what the government is committing to.

The Treasurer will be aware that over the past number of years, the budget for capital spending has exceeded \$3 billion, yet the Treasurer's worst-case scenarios of further deficit increases project a budget of \$3.1 billion for capital,



which would barely maintain existing capital-funded construction jobs. Would the Treasurer confirm that the Premier's billions of dollars in capital funding is nothing more than the status quo?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I wouldn't confirm any such thing. When the member opposite talks about the capital expenditures, I would ask her to keep a couple of things in mind. First, and I suspect it was the case when the party opposite was in power, is that built into the budgets of all the various ministries is a base capital budget, and beyond that, anything added above that would be added to the total capital expenditures for the province. An example would be last year, where there was a base capital budget for the various ministries and then on top of that the government introduced a \$700-million capital works program all across Ontario, which was completely above what was already built into the ministries' budgets.

1420

**Mrs McLeod:** In anticipating what the expenditure in the next budget for capital projects might be, we were simply attempting to do a basic subtraction of the Treasurer's own projection of the estimated deficit and his own projection of what their operating costs would be. It seemed to indicate to us that the capital spending would fairly closely match what the total capital spending budget reported separately in all budgets presented by this House has been.

But I would still acknowledge the fact that expenditures for capital are important ways of creating jobs. I would like to ask the Treasurer then, given this commitment to capital spending to create jobs, whether the priority in the capital spending plans that are undertaken will be the projects that lead to long-term job creation as opposed to the temporary person-hours of employment that we saw in the expenditure of the anti-recession funds; and if so, would the Treasurer also comment on what strategy his government will use to set priorities on capital projects that provide long-term jobs.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** That is a good question and a very perceptive one, I might say, because I accept what the leader of the official opposition says about the importance of jobs being more than simply make-work projects. Last year there was a need to do a lot of catch-up on capital projects, and we used the \$700 million to do that, but those were basically off-the-shelf projects, if I could put it that way, that were sitting there waiting to be done and were going to have to be done at some point anyway. We simply speeded it up and did it in the fiscal year 1991-92.

I would say to the leader of the official opposition that my view is that any major capital works projects should have more to them than that in the future; that we've got to build training into any such capital works projects and that they have to be strategically wise for the future and not simply creating work projects that put people back to work and then allow them to qualify for unemployment insurance and then when that ends they come back on social assistance and so forth. We are trying very hard to be much

more strategic in the way in which we spend this province's money.

**Mrs McLeod:** I am very pleased that the Treasurer feels that this is the right direction for the government priorities to be taking. I would ask him to go back and review some of the expenditures on the anti-recession funds. Certainly some of those initial projects were ones which we were well aware had been waiting to go for some time, but as the spending went on I think the Treasurer would find that in many communities people were saying, "We haven't asked for this money but we'll do something with it if we're going to receive it." In fact, I find very few examples of long-term job creation other than perhaps some projects which would be supported by increased government funding.

If I could take the Treasurer from the general to the much more specific, last fall the Ministry of Transportation announced a new study on the Red Hill Creek Expressway, which included the possibility of resuming construction of the original route. The report is due this month. The immediate construction which is possible on the original route would meet the Premier's commitments to streamline government red tape, which was so clearly enunciated again today, as well as the capital spending that will promote job creation. The project would provide construction jobs, but it would also provide the kind of transportation infrastructure that is necessary for further economic and business development in the Hamilton area.

I would ask whether the Treasurer will confirm, based on his earlier comments in response to my questions, that the government will give this project the green light to allow construction to restart this spring when that report is presented.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** In view of the preamble to that question in which the member opposite engaged, I think I have an obligation to respond to that aspect of her question as well.

The \$700-million anti-recession package from 1991-92 was not meant to be a strategic long-range capital program. I tried to say that and then in your preamble you seemed to be critical of that fact. It was simply a list of projects that had a very high priority at the local level. They helped establish the priorities. We did not establish the priorities here in Toronto; they were established at the local level, and I disagree with you that the local communities didn't appreciate that money. We've had a lot of very positive comments about that program.

When it comes to the Red Hill Creek Expressway I simply say to the leader of the official opposition that the budget will lay out some details of our capital works projects, but largely the announcements will be made by the ministries. But in reference to that particular expressway I would urge the leader of the official opposition not to hold her breath.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** Perhaps that question should have gone to the Minister of Labour, who we understand is the one who canned the Red Hill Creek Expressway and threw thousands of people out of work and destroyed jobs for Hamilton.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is for the Minister of Labour.

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** Welcome back.

**Mr Harris:** Welcome back, exactly.

Mr Minister, the Globe and Mail reported this week that there is an ongoing investigation at the Workers' Compensation Board. Would the minister tell us when he was first aware of this investigation that has reportedly been under way since December and what information he can provide to the House?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I can tell the leader of the third party that I was first made aware of it two or three weeks ago and that the board initiated actions. The police are now moving and there are charges being laid or arrests being made. While that is in this situation, I am not prepared to comment on it any further.

**Mr Harris:** Are you not concerned that this investigation has been going on since December, your crony's in charge over there, and it's only in the last couple of weeks—my sources tell me that as many as six employees have been suspended now without pay and that charges against some have already been laid. I thought when charges were laid that was a matter of public record, let alone informing your colleagues here in the House of what is going on. One case reportedly involves fraud in excess of \$1 million.

Minister, will you share with us now here in the House the information that should be public about charges that have been laid, as is your job, I believe? Second, will you tell us if you have called for the Provincial Auditor to step in, and if not, why not?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I think the leader of the third party is aware that the actions in terms of the alleged frauds have been initiated by the board itself. The board is responsible for the operations of the board. As long as I am satisfied that they are on top of the issue, I am not going to try to move in and take over their responsibilities.

**Mr Harris:** It's your responsibility to make public what's going on when charges are being laid. You are the minister responsible and you are the minister responsible to this House.

We learned last month that a construction firm owner had been charged with defrauding the WCB. Obviously we have a huge system and a huge corporation that has run amok. Last December we raised issues. It seemed you were all too busy figuring out how the agencies related to the WCB could hire the labour leaders' cronies or their sons and daughters at \$55,000 a year. Maybe that is where the effort has been going on over there.

Interjection.

**Mr Harris:** Well, the former NDP critic for the WCB is now the chairman. I would have thought he would know what is going on.

You must be aware how serious the situation is. What steps are you taking to ensure that the type of fraud reported a month ago, that the kind of nepotism in the hiring

and that both the internal and external fraud we now see are not going to take place in the future at the WCB?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I want to assure the leader of the third party that I have no difficulty in taking actions if necessary, but I am not going to if the actions are being taken by those responsible at the board. I remind him once again, it was the board that initiated the actions in terms of the alleged frauds.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** New question.

**Mr Harris:** To the same minister about the same issue.

Interjection.

**Mr Harris:** The issue is, it's run amok. What's going on over there?

In December I wrote to you expressing my concerns about an individual who had received another person's medical records from the WCB. When CFTO-TV aired the story, it was flooded, as was my office, with phone calls from other claimants who had also received someone else's medical files. Minister, I asked you in December to immediately investigate this breach of confidentiality. Since, some four months later, you have not even bothered to respond to my letter, would you tell me now what steps you have taken to stop what appears to be a free flow of confidential information out of the WCB?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I'm not aware of any free flow of confidential information outside of the WCB. Once again, the actions in terms of the alleged fraud have been initiated by the board itself. That is ongoing now and you can see that by the actions of the police in the last 24 hours. It seems to me they are dealing with the issue. In the event they are unable to, then we will take a look at it.

1430

**Mr Harris:** I don't know. You're always a question behind. I mean, you are 10 years behind in your economic policies.

Tough economic times and increased costs, admittedly much of them as a result of the failed Liberal policies before you, have escalated the WCB's debt. Its unfunded liability is now \$10.3 billion and growing every day; \$45,000 is the unfunded liability for every company registered with WCB. Closest of any other province in the dominion is Quebec at \$500 million, and we're at \$10 billion—\$10 billion.

Minister, you've put out a white paper on this situation; obviously, it is not going to solve the financial mess. Your proposals don't even talk about reducing costs, as every other province is talking about. How do you intend to clean up this mess over at WCB?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** In terms of the unfunded liability, it goes back to about 1972, so maybe the leader of the third party could tell us what he was doing about the particular problem. I think the leader of the third party is also aware that actions are under way to deal with the unfunded liability. Once again, I think the board is taking positive actions in that respect.



**Mr Harris:** In 1981 it was \$868 million; now it's \$10 billion, going to \$12 billion. You are now in charge. You are now in control. I believe it is clear that we have both a financial and an administrative cesspool over at WCB. It is affecting our competitiveness. The employers in our province are paying at least 50% more, in many cases double, triple, any other province in this land already, not even counting the unfunded liability. How much more evidence do you need before you will do something? I would ask you this, Minister: Will you immediately launch a full public review—as you won't do it—of WCB today?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** It seems to me the approach of the leader of the third party is about as positive as some of the billboards I've seen around the province. I think the leader is well aware that the board is taking action on every issue he's raised. We will see what their proposals are. If they're not adequate, then it's time for this minister to move.

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** My question is to the Minister of Education. First, let me in this House thank the minister for appearing via telephone on a cable television show in my community last night. I appreciate the fact that he came out and faced the music, so to speak. I thanked him on that show, which will be aired for all to see in Mississauga, Brampton and other parts of Peel tomorrow evening on cable 10.

Minister, while I appreciate the fact you phoned in to the show and talked to the representatives from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and from the elementary teachers' federation and to some of the parents from Peel concerned about quality education, you've caused some confusion. In response to D'arcy Kingshott from the OSSTF, you stated that if boards and employee groups would get together now and give some indication on how they can reduce the salary and compensation levels of that board, the provincial government would be prepared to help.

The confusion is that on the other hand you've been quoted in the media as saying you're not talking about reopening contracts. You know the Peel board is in a two-year contract situation facing 10% salary increases, yet you're telling Mr Kingshott and others that you want them to get together and come up with some miraculous way of reducing salary and compensation costs. If they do that, the implication is that you will pull some money out of the government somewhere to solve the problem of the board having to cut in programs such as junior kindergarten.

Interjections.

**Mr Mahoney:** This may not be important to you, but this is critically important to 6,000 kids, and this minister knows it.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order. You have a question to ask. Please ask your question.

**Mr Mahoney:** I'm asking the minister, given his statements about reducing salary and compensation levels

to solve the problem and you'll then give them some more money, could you clarify, sir, what exactly it is you mean?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Education):** I agree with the member opposite that the issue here is a very important issue, and I did appreciate the exchange we managed to have, albeit by telephone, last night on the program.

In trying to clarify, I will say to the member that I don't think there's an inconsistency, although I appreciate that there may be some confusion. What I have been saying to school boards and to the teacher's federation is that in addition to dealing with the non-salary areas of the budget, quite frankly we have to begin, in the area of education, the sector of education, to take a look at how we're going to rationalize the kinds of salary increases and compensation packages we've had over the last year, when we were dealing with increases in the 5% and 6% range, with the kinds of increases we believe are more in keeping with the kind of inflationary increases we have in place now. There is a period of adjustment we are all going through and that clearly the school board sector is going through.

One of the things we are doing in looking at the use of the transition funds, which, as I've indicated here in this House and on the program last night, we still have to allocate, is looking very much at how we can position some of those funds to assist with this transition. Quite frankly that means a number of different things, depending on whether boards and teachers' federations, in this case, have contracts that go to the end of this school year or in some cases beyond, and what may be possible in terms of looking at future years, and putting together some proposals we could look at that I think show us that in fact there's an effort being made to deal with that kind of transition in costs from a high range to a lower range. The details of that, I should say, we are trying to work out in discussions with representatives of both school boards and teachers' federations.

**Mr Mahoney:** I wish that actually clarified the situation, but I fear that to the parents, and the teachers particularly, in my community, it's going to simply add to the muddle.

Minister, you also said you took exception to the fact that you were being painted as being in any way responsible for the decisions the boards are making with regard to cutbacks in programs. You have said that you don't want programs such as French immersion, the busing programs and junior kindergarten cut, you don't want contracts reopened, yet you want the boards to come forward with some kind of proposal that suggests they have worked with their employee groups. Those are your words, that they should work with their employee groups to give you some indication of how they're going to solve this problem by reducing salary and compensation cuts.

Please be specific. You have given them a 1% increase in their transfer payments. They're dealing with a two-year contract, facing 10% increases in salaries, and you know full well salaries represent 82% of the budget. Please, sir, tell me in clear words: How can you say you're not responsible

for these decisions being forced upon the trustees when you only pass on 1%? How can you suggest they should come in with some new, miraculous reduction in salary and compensation costs and then you're going to turn around and give them some money we know or suspect you're simply holding back to give away to the unions?

These people want help. There are 6,000 kids. You and the Minister of Labour can have a good chuckle over this, but it's frankly not funny. There are 6,000 kids. Here's a report entitled *Children First*.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The question has been asked, thank you. Take your seat.

Interjection.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The procedures are very clear. When the Speaker stands, the member takes his seat. I would ask all members to respect the procedures. Minister.

1440

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I'll try to grapple with the various parts of that question, but in trying to keep the answer as brief as possible I will just say that, as the member knows, I was responding last night to the specific point I think he made about my being responsible for the decision the Peel board made with respect to the cut of the kindergarten program. Quite clearly, I take no responsibility for that action. That was a choice that board made out of a number of choices it had before it. The fact that there were other choices before them is supported by the fact that almost as many trustees opposed that direction as voted in favour of it, and I think that's an interesting point.

I would say, as I have indicated already, that I am meeting tomorrow afternoon with the chair of the Peel board. At my request, he has agreed to meet. We are going to discuss a number of issues related to decisions the Peel board has made and we will discuss within that what help we may be on a whole range of issues.

Clearly the question of how we can be of assistance through the transition fund is, as I have indicated, something on which we are working out the details, in conjunction with representatives from the school boards and from the teachers' federations and other support staff unions. We believe it's important that it be done in that way because that's the way in which we will have the level of buy-in we need to make that work as well.

#### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** My question is to the Minister of Health, and it concerns the arbitrary way in which the Minister of Health has been reducing access to health care and prescription drugs.

Seniors are finding out that drugs they are taking for heart problems are no longer covered by the Ontario drug benefit plan. A woman in my riding who needs kidney dialysis has been told that the program to fund an in-home attendant has been cut. Parents of children with heart disease are devastated that their children are losing access to oxygen services in-home. I also understand that you are seriously considering cutting in vitro fertilization, sterilization and many other medical services.

The worst thing about this is that people are only finding out about these cuts in services when they actually need the treatment. So I ask you, what do you say to children and seniors who have become victims of your backroom health cuts?

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy):** It's a very theatrical question. Let me say to the member that there isn't anything arbitrary about anything I've done.

Let's take your issue with respect to drugs. We have taken the advice of the Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee. We have had an expert panel review to make suggestions following on the Lowy commission recommendations about how those drugs are treated. We've put in place proper procedures for people to access the drugs they need and we've communicated to all the doctors in the province about how they can get that access.

With respect to home dialysis, you say the individual in your riding has been told the program has been cut. I am not aware of any cuts to programs. I have received a letter from you about a home dialysis program; we've in fact been proceeding with trying to obtain the funding for that for your constituent. I announced today enhanced program financing for a dialysis program across the province, and I think you'll find that we'll be able to resolve the problems you've drawn to my attention.

With respect to heart monitors, the restrictions on access under the assistive devices program were put in place in 1990, before this government came into power. I met with parents yesterday, and I am looking at the restrictions: whether those are effective, whether they are still required. Again, I would say that the former minister who put those restrictions in place did so on the advice of a panel of experts.

With respect to things like in vitro fertilization, let's not scaremonger. I have never said I'm cutting those services. What I've said is that we have to have a health care system that is based on good analysis of what the health outcomes of procedures are. There is a lot of debate around things like in vitro fertilization: whether it is an effective procedure, whether there are good health outcomes of the babies that are produced with that kind of technological intervention. All I have said is that we should do better evaluation. We have now put in place the kind of clinical evaluation through the Naylor Institute. I think we're building a rational system. There is nothing arbitrary about it.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** The question has been answered.

**Mr Jim Wilson:** Minister, it is clear, even if you don't realize it, that the woman in my riding who needs an in-home attendant has had that service cut. It used to exist. She doesn't have access to that service any more. I call that a cut. I call it a cut when children who used to receive oxygen in their homes no longer have access to that service. I don't know what the minister calls it, but it is clear to me and to my colleagues that she is rationing health care behind the scenes and arbitrarily cutting services, and by doing so she is clearly moving towards a US style of health care.



After extensive public consultation, the state of Oregon, as honourable members know, has come up with a list of health care services it will pay for and a list of those it won't pay for. But unlike Oregon, the minister is not even consulting with the public when she makes her service cuts. The minister and a group of senior civil servants are rationing health care behind closed doors. It is time for the minister to come out of the back room and present this House with a list of services she has already cut and a list of services she will fund in the future.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** The member's allegations are completely unfounded. Let me say to the member that there have been no services delisted other than electrolysis, which was announced here in the House and which was widely advertised to the individuals receiving that service. We replaced access to that service through the private sector with a sliding scale in order for people to be able to get affordable service for what was a non-medical procedure.

The kind of allegations that are being made really make me wonder what it is the member would like. He wants more money thrown at a system which has been accelerating at a rate that is not sustainable? He wants to see the deterioration of our national health care system by throwing more money at it, maybe from user fees? Maybe he is arguing for user fees. His leader was arguing for user fees in the media over the last weekend. He talks about a US-style system. We will get there much faster if we listen to the Conservative Party and introduce user fees.

We have a vision for a redirection of the health care system. We are attempting to preserve medicare in this province. We are working with other provinces in a national drive to try to preserve this health care system. We need better management of the system. I am providing that.

#### CHICKEN INDUSTRY

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Over the last year or so, constituents in my riding who produce chickens have been bombarding me with the unfairness of the Ontario Chicken Producers' Marketing Board, whereby it is not seen to be representative. I understand the minister has a new policy whereby the producer can deal directly with the farmer, and I am just wondering, Mr Minister, if you can relate to me the benefits of this so-called chicken unlock.

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** The concerns that the member raises from the chicken producers in his riding were shared by producers and processors throughout Ontario. We did change the live chicken marketing policy and I am very pleased to report that we seem to have done something right on this one.

I have two letters here that we have received, from both sides of this issue, which have congratulated us. One is from the Ontario Chicken Producers' Marketing Board and it says, "I would like to commend and congratulate you on your response to our board's request to terminate the present system and to institute the new system." I also have a letter from the Ontario Chicken Processors Association, the business side of this equation, and it says, "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on

the decision taken to end the 'chicken lock-in' and allow growers to contract with processors."

So both sides of the equation seem to be quite happy with the new system we have put in place. It allows for some flexibility. It allows the chicken producers the opportunity to select their processor, and it allows the processors the flexibility of dealing with the individual grower.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order, please. Answers should not be used for statements.

1450

**Mr Mills:** Minister, I am absolutely delighted to hear that, because I know the chicken producers will not be knocking on my door. Do you really see that this is going to solve the problem of the issue of producers versus the industry?

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** There are two components to this new system. First, it allows the growers to contract with the processor of their choice rather than being locked in—thus the earlier comment about the lock-in—so they can move their chickens around. There's freedom and flexibility in the system.

The second part of the system is in negotiating prices. Prior to this, the board set the price for chicken. Very often the processors didn't like the price and would appeal it to a tribunal. The new system we have in place allows the producers to sit down with the process and negotiate a price, coming to the table together. If they can't do that, there's a system in place for final-offer selection, an arbitrator to select the price. It's a very fair system. We have a system where the farmers and the processors are working together to make the system work better.

#### LAYOFFS

**Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte):** My question is to the Treasurer. Within the last few months, more than 1,000 people in my riding of Quinte have lost their jobs. Just recently Paperboard Industries in Glen Miller laid off 180 people and Nestle foods in Trenton laid off 130 people. Murata Erie, which once employed approximately 1,000 people, says it will close its plant by the end of June 1992, eliminating the last 400 jobs.

I am sending over to you, Treasurer, information listing thousands of other jobs lost in eastern Ontario. I'd also like to make you aware of the projections of the Ministry of Labour listing additional thousands of jobs that will be lost over the next few months in that same area.

The jobless rate at present in eastern Ontario now stands at approximately 11.8%, well above the province's 9.9% average. Can the Treasurer tell the House what help he is prepared to give to towns and cities in eastern Ontario that have been devastated by these job losses?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I appreciate the question from the member for Quinte. As a member who represents a northern Ontario constituency where we've had enormous difficulties over the years, I can appreciate how he feels when the economic infrastructure in his area becomes undermined that way.



I would say to the member as well that in the last year and a half or so, since the recession started, there have been losses of more than 250,000 jobs in this province. I know the member opposite understands very well how government is restricted in its ability to solve all the problems when the private sector lays off so many people. That's not meant in an accusatory way; that's just a fact of life. I urge the member opposite to be positive and to help his leader bring forward suggestions to us as to how we can best resolve some of these problems.

I remind the member opposite, however, that all the news isn't bad. There are quite a number of good-news stories coming out lately too. I just happen to have a couple here, one that would interest him in particular. This was a story in the *Globe and Mail* just two days ago, I believe. "Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co has announced a 75% increase in production at its Napanee radial tire plant," which will result in the hiring of 130 workers over the next year. I could go on because I have a very long list of good-news economic stories as well, but I am not for a minute discounting the problems the member has brought forward today.

**Mr O'Neil:** I can appreciate what the Treasurer is trying to tell me, but I'd also like to remind the Treasurer that, being a member from northern Ontario, he will remember the great things we did in the north to generate jobs there, the ministries we put there and the additional industries we put there. I would also remind you that the Goodyear tire plant was something that went in under this government and created those jobs.

Dealing again with eastern Ontario, which I bring you back to, Mr Treasurer, the former Liberal government had a cabinet committee which lobbied for eastern Ontario just as we lobbied for the north and you lobbied for the north. Since the NDP came into power, that cabinet committee no longer exists.

Our government also initiated a five-year community economic development program for the area worth \$25 million. Funding for that program has been frozen by you three years before its 1995 deadline. Now there are rumours that the program will be cut. Scrapping the cabinet committee and the community development program is a short-sighted strategy for helping the region.

Now, Minister, can you tell the House if your government has any plans to reinstate the eastern Ontario cabinet committee and whether it plans to keep the community development program or eliminate it completely? Let's get some jobs in eastern Ontario. Let's get some action here.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I can answer directly. Yes, the member for Ottawa Centre has agreed to reconstitute the cabinet committee for eastern Ontario.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** Do something, Floyd, do something.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** In a very serious way, I would say to the—

**Mrs Caplan:** Fred will call her the lady from Ottawa Centre.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** If the member for Oriole would allow me to address the very serious problem in eastern

Ontario raised by the member for Quinte, I would attempt to do that.

To the member for Quinte, I would simply say that when it comes to economic development programs at the community level, that was one of the areas the treasury board decided it needed to have a look at, because it seemed there was an incredible array of community economic development programs in all different ministries and there did not seem to be very much cohesiveness or logic to them.

We have taken a very serious look and are continuing to look at the way in which community economic development programs are delivered, whether it's in eastern Ontario, northern Ontario or whatever part of the province, so he is quite right that we are examining the whole question of how community economic development programs are delivered. I can assure him that eastern Ontario is always a very high priority with this government.

#### ONTARIO TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** My question is for the Minister of Skills Development. Mr Minister, you're very much aware of the consultation that is going on around the province with regard to the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, and you and the Premier have signed a letter inviting participants to be part of a communications process to give us the best advice they can on the makeup of boards and on the whole structure of delivering training and education in Ontario, a very much needed process.

On November 28 you announced your plans to restructure. At that time I responded to your position, and that was that OTAB's governing body will comprise eight business representatives, seven labour representatives, four representatives from social action groups, two representatives from education and training, and one provincial and one federal ex officio government rep.

In London this week and in the weeks preceding the meeting this Tuesday evening, the presenters were told that this is a done deal and that there will be no changes to this governing body. I'm going to ask today if that is so. As a result of the consultations, will you be making changes if in fact you are told there are problems with the makeup of this board in the eyes of the consumers you were asking the advice of?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development):** The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board initiative is one that, in various degrees of consultation, emerged over a period of three years. In the course of time there has emerged a consensus between the various labour market partners about the approaches that should be taken.

What we are in at the moment, of course, is a refinement of the model that came out of that earlier stage. While there is some agreement among the partners about some aspects of the program that is proposed, we are listening very carefully and, as I responded to the member for Brantford the other day, if there are good arguments that come forward with respect to aspects of that model that need to be looked at again, we will be looking at them.



The model we proposed also grew to some measure out of the experience of the Canadian Labour Force Development Board, developed by the federal government, and its experience in bringing those labour market partners together and what would work best as an advisory body at that level. So we will be looking at the recommendations that come from the consultations in your community and across the province and we will be making some final decisions, but with the labour market partners together, some time in late May or early June, to put those things together.

1500

**Mrs Cunningham:** I am positively thrilled with the response from the minister, which is that he said he was listening, because, Mr Speaker, I should tell you that his own department has said it is a done deal. So I am sure he'll take care of it with his response today.

The other thing they're saying is that the federal government has made up its mind. That's not so. I have already spoken to the representative, to the minister's office, and I know this minister will be in touch as a result of this question to make sure we're all saying the same thing.

I have to say something to the minister and ask him a question. In these consultations across the province, do you know how long the public are given to make their presentations and we're supposed to be listening?

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** Five hours?

**Mrs Cunningham:** Five minutes. In London this week and in other communities, 18 people spoke between 1:45 and 3:15 and 18 more people spoke between 6:45 and whatever the hour was, 8:15 or something like that. That's an hour and a half in the afternoon and an hour and a half in the evening. We wouldn't get away with this with regard to consultation.

My question to the minister is this: Will you be changing this process? This is not listening and looking for the best advice we can get. Will you be looking at every brief you can get? Will you be looking at every letter and will you be passing that on to the federal minister as well so that both of you can come up with the best joint training body we can administer for this province that needs it badly?

**Hon Mr Allen:** I'll certainly commit to coming up with the best possible training body we can produce. That's certain, 100%.

I want to clarify a possible misunderstanding in the preliminary part of the supplementary from the member for London North. It sounded to me as though she was suggesting there was a provincial-federal collaboration around the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. That is a purely provincial initiative. The local boards—

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order.

**Hon Mr Allen:** If the leader of the thirty party wants to shout down Mr Mulroney some time, I'll give him that task. But let me explain that with respect to the local consultations, there are in effect three different consultations going on at the moment. One is that in every sector there's

a labour consultation, there's an employer consultation, there's a trainer consultation and there is a social action group consultation around those who are out of the workforce and need to get in.

Cutting across that, there are the community consultations. The community consultations are set up on the basis of two teams going to 23 different communities. They will spend seven hours in every community, but they will divide their time into two parts, one a general discussion and the other formal presentations. The formal presentation time does have to be divided in terms of how many come forward by community. In one community, yours, it happened there were so many that each had five minutes; in Richmond Hill, 10 minutes; in some others, 15.

There are also my visits to the communities, and I listen as well. So there is a lot of cross-cutting and a lot of careful listening, and it is all coming back. Those people are invited to give us the longest written submission they want to supplement anything they say. We'll read them all and take them all into account.

#### AGRICULTURAL LAND

**Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex):** My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Mr Minister, as you certainly know, the arbitrator, Mr John Brant, has submitted his report regarding the recommendations for the resolution of the boundary dispute between the county of Middlesex and the city of London. One of the recommendations addressed the need for effective planning and responsible land use.

My question relates to effective planning and responsible land use, specifically in regard to the protection of agricultural land. What mechanisms are available to ensure that the class 1 to 3 agricultural land in the area proposed for annexation will be protected for the long term?

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** I appreciate the involvement and concern the member has expressed on this very difficult issue. The other London members too have been very much involved in this entire process.

I want to assure the member that it is my view that the proposal and the arbitrator's report on the boundaries in the city of London and the county of Middlesex offer that area and the province a real opportunity to plan better than has occurred in the past. I and the ministry believe agricultural land can and will be protected.

In the report itself it refers to a minimum of 10 years that agricultural land will remain agricultural. In the development of a new official plan for that area, for the new city of London, it will be the expectation of our ministry and this government that agricultural land will continue to be protected.

#### TRANSFER PAYMENTS

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** My question is to the Treasurer. I would like to get from the Treasurer his estimate of the impact of his transfer payments on the various colleges, universities, hospitals and school boards. We know the treasury department does estimates of the number of hospital beds or classrooms that

might be closed. As a matter of fact, last year you will recall you personally came to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs and outlined for us the exact number of classrooms that would close as a result of transfer payments and the exact number of hospital beds. I think you said last year that if you were to flat-line your transfer payments, 5,000 hospital beds would close, there would be 25,000 fewer students in colleges and universities and 6,000 classrooms would close. So it is clear those numbers are done and are available.

Are you prepared today to give us the same estimates you were prepared to give us a year ago on the true impact of transfer payments on your various agencies?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** There are a couple of problems with the assumptions built into the member's question.

**Mr Phillips:** One is that you know the answer.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** The fact that I have the answer is one of them, yes.

The member is assuming, as I made no secret of a year ago, that everything was business as usual, whether at the school boards, the colleges, the universities or the municipalities. What we have tried to indicate as clearly as possible this year is that it is not business as usual any more. When we announced the transfers to the transfer agencies out there, we indicated very clearly that the 1% this year was going to be supplemented by a transition fund, which my colleague the Minister of Health announced today for the hospitals, for example.

I want to take a minute to explain this, because I think the member asks a good question. The reason we wanted to have a transition fund and why we set up very particular criteria around accessing that transition fund is that we wanted all the hospitals, school boards and universities to restructure the way in which they deliver services to their clients, whether it is students, patients or services at the municipal level.

The numbers you had last year, which we discussed, were based on the assumption that there was no restructuring done, that the services were delivered in the same way and that there wasn't a meeting of the minds between the people who work in the institutions, the people who receive the services and the people who administer those institutions. We think that is all changing and that kind of thing will happen.

**Mr Phillips:** Frankly, the answer doesn't make sense. The reason it doesn't make sense is that it was clear a year ago, Treasurer, that you had the numbers. You were able to estimate. You may be able to fool your caucus, but you're not going to fool the people out there. You had the numbers because it was in your political best interests last year to do it. You got all sorts of headlines—"Laughren Gives Tongue-Lashing to Deficit Critics." The fact of the matter is that you can do the estimates. I suspect the estimates have already been done.

Is the opposition going to have to simply use and interpret the figures you used last year? Are we going to have to assume that there are going to be 5,000 beds closed, 6,000 fewer classrooms? Or are you prepared to do what

you did last year and give the Legislature your best cut at the impact the 1% transfer payment will have? Can we have answer today on whether you are prepared to do that or will we have to use your last year's estimates?

1510

**Hon Mr Laughren:** Since the member opposite has brought up my appearance last year before the standing committee, I was invited before that committee largely because that caucus was objecting to the size of the deficit in 1991-92. I am not sure what the member is saying now. Is he saying that he wants a larger deficit this year? I am not sure what he is saying.

I will repeat to the member, and I will try and make it as clear as possible, because I think it is a fair question, that the numbers that were presented last year to the standing committee were numbers based on the assumption that there was no restructuring at the local level, that there was no 1% increase, no transition fund.

**Mr Phillips:** You did it last year.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** You're not listening to me. You've already decided that the answer I will give you you will not understand. I don't think that makes any sense on your part. I simply tell you that the numbers last year were based on the status quo, business as usual, no restructuring at the local level, no attempts by people who work in the institutions, with the management, with the people who receive the services, to work out a different and perhaps even a more efficient way of delivering the service.

Just because it's been done one way for a long time doesn't mean that's the most efficient way to deliver the service. We think that by the institutions working with the people who receive the service and with the people who work in these institutions, a better, more efficient, a low-cost way of delivering those services is not only possible but desirable.

#### VEHICLE LICENSING OFFICES

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Last October 21, and again on November 25, you stood in this House and assured the people of Ontario that the 293 vehicle licensing offices in the province were safe. You said, and I would like to quote you, "The system is working well and we have no intention of changing it."

I guess that was then and this is now, because your ministry is funding a pilot project to establish self-serve kiosks which would put the licensing offices out of business and 1,500 workers out of jobs. Will the minister tell us what his promise of the day is on this issue?

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and minister responsible for francophone affairs):** I do welcome the very current question. This is an open-minded government. This is a government that means what it says. This is also a government that looks to the future with a great degree of confidence, a government that blends its priority inherently with the technology that is available out there. Some of the people who live in the 1930s have a great deal of difficulty. Our mandate is one of convenience to the



public. If the technology will give us and give them, more important, value for money, we cannot afford not to do it.

**Mr Turnbull:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would like the night shift on that one.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** We will make sure that you are considered. Consult with the table. They will explain to you exactly what to do. Please consult with the table and we'll make sure that your question is asked on the late show.

## PETITIONS

### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario that reads as follows:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act;

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

That is signed by some 246 people from my riding of Simcoe West, and it is in addition to the several hundred names I presented to this House yesterday. I too have affixed my name to this petition.

### SCHOOL FACILITIES

**Mr Mark Morrow (Wentworth East):** The residents of my riding of Wentworth East, especially upper Stoney Creek and Glanbrook, want, deserve and need a high school.

"We, the undersigned, do hereby petition the Ministry of Education to give the appropriate grants to the Wentworth County Board of Education for the purpose of building a new public high school in the upper Stoney Creek area on already owned land."

There are 870 names on this petition, and I affixed my name to the top of it.

### PORNOGRAPHY

**Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot):** I have a petition signed by 39 constituents of Hamilton, and it is self-explanatory.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The 1991 federal Criminal Code, section 163, is clear and concise in its definition of obscenity. Mr Robert Payne, chairman of the Ontario Film Review Board, is mandated to review films and implement the law. We support the action of Project P and reject any undermining of the law through personal interpretation."

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

**Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock):** I am presenting a petition signed by 87 constituents. It states:

"We, the residents of Line 1, in conjunction with the residents and staff of Pleasant Manor, would like to request that a stoplight or crosswalk be put up at Highway 55 and Field Road or Highway 55 and Line 1. Residents in the area feel that it is dangerous to cross the highway as it is now, and a stoplight or crosswalk would help ease the situation a lot. Please give this your utmost consideration."

I affixed my signature to this petition.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** Isn't that a municipal issue? That's a municipal issue.

**Ms Haeck:** No, it isn't. It's a provincial highway.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** I wish to put a few things on the record with regard to the throne speech.

[Interruption]

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orillia):** I think that's a good sign.

**Mr Harris:** Yes, that's a good sign; even the carpenters are mad.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order, please. They are knocking on the walls, and I don't think it would be fair to you to have this noise. I think we should perhaps check. We'll stop for a while.

**Le Greffier de la Chambre (Claude L. DesRosiers) :** C'est déjà arrêté.

**The Deputy Speaker:** They have been advised already.

1520

**Mr Harris:** I am delighted that I am able to proceed right now because the most often asked questions I have had about my speech today have been: "When are you going to finish? How long are you going to be? Is this going to be another extravaganza?" So let me serve notice to all and sundry, those who don't wish to hear it all or those who may be up after me, that I plan to provide lots of opportunity for others to speak today. Second, I am attending the John Hopper roast in North Bay tonight, for which I must catch a plane at 4:45 from Malton airport.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** Pearson?

**Mr Harris:** No, I don't call it Pearson. I refuse to do that. However, if you gauge yourself accordingly this will not be one of my longer dissertations in the House.

[Applause]

**Mr Harris:** I appreciate the applause on all sides in anticipation of some very poignant comments. As I may run out of time, I believe the critics in my caucus are easily capable of taking over and running the government today even though there are not as many of us. That would be a good sign, because we'd cut down the number of ministries, and that would be a great start in reducing the bureaucracy. I know they'll pick up on some areas I may not be able to touch on.

I want to start right at the end of the speech and tell you that this example alone is an indication of how this government is so out of touch with what is happening in this province, is so off base. It perhaps explains why everyone, including card-carrying union members, is so concerned with the changes they want to bring into the Labour Relations Act. Here's what they say on the last page:

"A critical component of these plans is labour relations. Public sector employees must find ways in which workers and their representatives can participate fully in designing new, more effective delivery systems for the high quality public services Ontarians deserve."

Great rhetoric; good rhetoric. We all agree. Then they say, here's the solution, here's the shining example everybody in the public sector, and the private sector, I guess, across this province should emulate. If only they could match this example:

"Creative collective bargaining, such as the settlement at Ontario Hydro with its employees, can produce solutions where no one loses."

No one loses? Just everybody who pays for hydro in the entire province is losing. It was some 12% last year and they want a 9% increase next year. The average salary is \$65,000 a year. It is the most overpaid, bloated collection of bureaucracy you could ever have an example of in the whole province and you hold them out as an example. You want the rest of the civil service, the public sector unions, hospitals and municipalities to emulate Ontario Hydro.

What does Energy Probe say about Ontario Hydro? It says: "It's 33,000-person payroll, which is one third of the electricity bills, is bloated almost beyond belief. The average salary is an astonishing \$65,000 a year. Utilities in the rest of the country average 24% fewer employees to produce the same amount of power."

I've not met one person, not one of 10 million so far, who thinks that Hydro isn't fat, overstaffed, overpaid, bloated or inefficient. And you hold them out as an example to the rest of the province. I rest my case: You are so out of touch with what is going on.

I said I'd better take a look at the settlement. Here it is. This is the settlement according to Hydroscope. It says: "Hydro, CUPE reach tentative agreement." Here's the tentative agreement you are so proud of: \$65,000, already overpaid, 20% higher than any other average, 25% more employees than everybody else in the country needs to

generate power. Here's what they get—I guess you are talking about the 1%, 2%, and 2% program—1% in the first year and 2% in the second year on the basic wages. I suppose that is what you are referring to. They should be happy they've got a job. They should be happy they weren't cut 20% both in staff and payroll and in numbers. They would've been happy, in fact, to take a cut to keep their jobs. But no, you think 1% and 2% is a good move for the highest-paid already in the province.

But here's what else they get: in the second year a cost-of-living allowance would provide lump sum payments for every 1% increase beyond the increase of 2%. So it's not 2% in the second year, it's 2% guaranteed, and if inflation is more than 2%, whatever that is. If inflation is 10% you get 10%.

What else does it have? Effective April 1, 1994, increases in the consumer price index will be incorporated into the base rate. You get the lump sum payment, and then in 1994 all these guaranteed increases will be included and lumped into the base rate.

What else do we have? Forty-hour rated employees will have their hours reduced to 39. That's a 2.5% wage increase right there.

What else do we have? Employees with 16 years, instead of 17 years, get five weeks vacation. I don't know what that costs; probably another 0.5%.

Then we have 1.5 times the rate paid for overtime the first four hours and double time after that; there are changes there to make that more lucrative. Then we have a 10% increase for the shift differentials: nine cents an hour on an eight-hour shift and a 13-cent-an-hour increase on 12-hour shifts. All those on top, another 1% or 2%, I guess.

Pensions will be indexed to 100%, I think from 90%.

This is a good settlement. We wrestled them right to the ground here. Here's efficiency for us.

What else did they get? There's some more equity stuff within CUPE. I don't know how that works, but I know it won't save money.

Extended health benefit and dental: enrichment of those benefits in the deal.

What else do we have? The employer health benefits deductible is reduced. How much is that reduced by?: \$10 for singles, \$20 for families. It used to be \$20 and \$40. There's a 100% improvement in that fringe benefit.

What else do we have? Improvements in moving and real estate and legal costs associated with work-related moves: more money there.

It just goes on and on and on. It says "see page 4." I was so sickened I couldn't even go to page 4.

You're proud of this as a settlement. That's why we're scared, business is scared, labour is scared. Those who are employed are concerned about losing their jobs with you guys in charge of the ship. You put it in there as an example and held it up. That is how out of touch you are.

The throne speech: If I say that, I don't think I need to say anything else. That alone tells me you're out of touch and incapable of managing the affairs of this province.

What is in the throne speech besides that? There are things that scare the bejabbers out of me, I want to tell you.



Infrastructure renewal program: That's an honest, upfront admission that we're frittering away too much money on ongoing costs and not putting enough into infrastructure. Why do you need a new renewal program? Because you're behind. Because the Liberals put us further behind and last year you put us even further behind than that.

Not since there was a Progressive Conservative government in this province has the appropriate share of money has gone to infrastructure. You were not even close to the percentage of money we spent on infrastructure. Imagine, during our 42 years, there was no electricity system, and we built it from the ground up, the generation, the distribution of it; the road system; the schools, the hospitals. And since 1985 you've been destroying the infrastructure that was built in this province, the infrastructure that attracted so many people and so many industries, who said: "Ontario's a good place to do business. The government has provided the infrastructure, the education system and the health care system there." It was a good place wherein to live, to work, to bring up a family, to educate your children. You and your predecessors since 1985 are destroying all of that.

You say you're going to establish an Ontario investment fund, voluntary investment by Ontario pension plans in the Ontario economy. We really are interested to see how this will work. You see, you've slipped in the word "voluntary," which we agree with. I guess what you're going to say to the public sector unions is this: "Look, we want you to invest. Have we got a deal for you. Take your pension money which you're counting on for retirement." The banks won't touch it, the trust companies won't touch it. Nobody else will lend them money. The venture capitals won't. None of the business people, none of the bond agencies will. Nobody in the private sector will touch this. "But is it a good, safe place for you to put your pension money. Have we got a deal for you."

Do you think that unless you lean on them or coerce them or go on some quid pro quo anybody's going to put five cents into an investment that the Treasurer and the Premier think is a good investment? Do you think that is going to be the case? Go ahead and set it up. I think a lot of people want to invest in their own province. But do you think this is going to be a good investment?

1530

There is one of two ways it'll work. One, you will coerce them into it. That's what they are so afraid of and why the unions are now organizing, saying, "Stop this NDP madness before it goes any further." The unions are organizing, getting together, putting a campaign together. They've called me and said, "Mike, save us from the NDP." Bob White's calling me. The labour unions are saying, "Please stop this madness in its tracks." You wouldn't believe the letters I have in my office from the union members. They're saying, "They're going to destroy our pension money," because they think you're going to lean on them.

The only other way it'll work is if you lean on the taxpayer and say, "Go ahead and make this risky investment that nobody else will touch and we will guarantee you a return." If that is your plan, then the taxpayers of the

province will be on the hook. We'll be watching very carefully to make sure you don't unfairly treat our brothers and sisters in the unions in this province, or the taxpayers in this province, because that's the only way it will work.

I looked at other things that you had: "Municipalities will be given increased flexibility to borrow and invest." What that means is, "We're going to continue offloading the way the Liberals did, but we'll let you go borrow the money and go into debt and become bankrupt like we are." That's what you've said. What the municipalities want to hear is: "We will stop the offloading. We will stop the silly promises of new programs when we know there does not exist within the province the money to pay for them."

You're putting off the inevitable. You're putting off what needs to be done. Federally, provincially, municipally, the jig is up. We're belly-up. We're bankrupt. The sooner we put our combined resources and energies and talents to spending smarter, to cutting the waste, to spending more efficiently, instead of pointing the finger at other governments or offloading or telling somebody else to borrow, the sooner we'll be on the road to recovery and the prosperity and hope and opportunity this province had for 42 years.

I was distressed when I saw that, because Bob Nixon did that in one of his budgets. He said, "Municipalities have more borrowing capacity than I have; therefore we're going to offload on them and tell the municipalities to borrow." Boy, oh, boy, that wasn't the parsimonious Bob Nixon; that was the Liberal-Party-David-Peterson-driven Bob Nixon that said: "Look, we're not going to stop spending, no matter what you say. So, Bob, figure out a way to pay for it." So he hiked taxes 33 times and made us the most heavily taxed province in all of Canada; in fact, in all of North America.

Now you rascals are starting down the same path. I don't blame you for that mess. I blame you for not changing direction and stopping that kind of government nonsense. This accord you and the Liberals had that brought you to power, that destroyed hope and opportunity in this province—I guess you're just of the same mind when it comes to these kinds of things. I was distressed to see that in the throne speech.

New resources committed to the backlog at the Ontario Municipal Board: We heard today what those new resources are. Dale Martin's going to pick and choose the projects that will get moved up the list. I guess those will be the non-profit ones, maybe the big union job ones; I don't know. I don't trust Dale Martin to pick which projects should move ahead. They all should move ahead. Take them in order and let's give them the resources to move ahead that way, not pick and choose the NDP favourites. What a disgrace we heard today, if that's the way you plan to do it.

Task force to streamline regulations: We have too many task forces; just start streamlining. You don't need a task force. We know what the problem is. We know we cannot spend 10 years analysing a dump site and then at the end of 10 years and hundreds of millions of dollars of consultants and lawyers, say, "No, that's not it; try again." We know that doesn't work.

I'm not pointing fingers. I think it was my party that brought that in. You all supported it, though. We all thought it would work. It's been a disgrace and a disaster and it hasn't protected the environment. I said that previous to the last election; I said it during the campaign. The Liberals and the NDP said: "Oh, no. Harris is off base." Then right after the election you took over and your minister, the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, said, "We've got to streamline the environmental assessment process"—the same thing I said, the same thing she condemned me for saying.

Interjections.

**Mr Harris:** Now you understand the problem. You've been in there 18 months. Nothing has happened except the recommitment that you say you're going to look at it. We'll see when the time comes whether you're going to look at it.

The building code will be updated; I'm sure that means "streamlined." Give me a break. When has the building code ever been updated and that made it easier and more efficient for builders to know what they can do and can't do?

They don't mind the toughest environmental regulations in the world—Ontario businesses have told me this, the people have told me, municipalities have told me this. But they want to be told yes or no. They don't want to be told, "Spend \$100 million on hearings and hire lawyers and we'll see." Yes or no. Make your standards tough, stringent—the toughest in the world, if you like. I think we can afford them; I think Ontarians can afford them. I think we want them, particularly if you'll put the money into meeting those standards instead of lawyers, instead of hearings, instead of consulting.

Madam Minister, if you will move in that direction you will have the support of me and my caucus, indeed our Environment critic, the member for Markham, who has been forcefully making this argument over the past couple of years but to no avail. There has been nothing happening.

"Planning Act Revised to Increase Supply of Basement Apartments": You're trying to go for these artificial quick fixes. Any home owner in Ontario would be foolish to turn over control of his family home, its principal residence, to somebody who is a stranger and whom he does not know and to the courts. They would be foolish. So if you expect basement apartments to work, to increase the supply, to put affordable housing out there, then you are going to have to look at the Landlord and Tenant Act, you're going to have to look at the rent review legislation and you are going to have to have different rules, because people's family situations could change.

They could say, "I'm prepared to have a basement apartment today," and then five years later have a couple more children or their family circumstances change, and they could say, "I want my home back." The current rules say: "Too bad; it's not your home any more. It belongs to the tenant." If you don't change that, anybody who creates a basement apartment is devaluing his property, mortgaging his future and taking away his own flexibility in his

own family home, something that was sought after for years.

This dream of home ownership was within the grasp of most Ontarians and increasingly, since 1985, with you rascals and your coalitions and your big taxing, that dream is vanishing. So I say to you, if you want that to work, then you'd better look as well at the regulations governing basement apartments.

The environmental bill of rights: I told you I don't have all day today, and others will talk about that. I know the member for Markham will be talking about the environmental bill of rights and how pleased farmers are to see it coming along, where we're now going to turn over control again to a hearing process, to lawyers, to others. Basically what we're going to say to the people of Ontario is, "We'll give you access to all the lawyers, all the courts, everything you want, to enforce good environmental standards in this province, because we don't think we're capable of doing it."

That's your job. That is the government's job, the Minister of the Environment's job, your job on behalf of the people. They elect you to set tough standards and to enforce them. If you don't think you're capable of doing it, step aside and let those who are capable of governing come in and govern. Don't say, "We'll give the people more money for more courts and more lawyers so they can do it." What a silly way to proceed.

"Introduce Legislation for the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board": ie, take the \$2 billion federally and provincially and give it to the big unions. Drive the private sector right out of training. Those who do it most immediately, most efficiently and most effectively now for the least number of dollars in the best response time to industry's need to create the jobs, to take people who need help and need training quickly, destroy all that.

1540

We know the agenda; we know what's happening there. Unfortunately you've got so many fires out there where you're heading in the wrong direction it's tough for us to fight them all at the same time. But we're going to manage. We'll slow you down and we'll change your direction. That's our goal. I want you to know that. Our goal isn't just to criticize and try to stay alive until 1995. This province is too dear to us; it's too precious to us. Our goal is to slow you down and stop you dead in your tracks if we can when you head off in these directions that are the wrong directions for this province. I serve notice to you today that this is our goal; it's not to wait till 1995.

The Labour Relations Act: Come on, guys—I say "guys" in the generic, non-sexist sense.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** I'm not a guy.

**Mr Harris:** You're acting like a guy, and a stupid one at that.

I tell you that at a time when we all know we must bring business, labour and government together to work more cooperatively, you are out there dividing like we've



never seen divisions before—and the rhetoric that you're part of.

Where is that Ontario statesmanlike leadership we had for 42 years that brought people together and business and labour together to solve problems? As I get letters from card-carrying union members concerned that they won't have secret ballot rights and that they're going to turn everything over to the three Bobs—Billy Bobs I call them—they say: "What about our rights? We're card-carrying union members. We're citizens of this province, we're taxpayers and we're workers. Mike, stand up there and fight. Defend us." I get letter after letter.

What happened to the kind of leadership that could bring unions and business to the same table to work cooperatively to provide the solutions for this province?

I've talked to a lot of Ontarians as I travelled this province in the last couple of years. Do you know what they tell me? They say: "Mike, we're not interested in right wing, left wing, NDP, PC or Liberal. We're not interested in ideology; we're not interested in this big union agenda that we see or in another agenda. We want commonsense solutions that work. We're not concerned whether government provides day care or the private sector provides it; we want it provided with quality and we want it provided efficiently."

Here you are hung up on the ideology that only government can provide it and only unions can provide protection for workers, instead of efficiency, instead of profits and instead of the company being successful so everybody can share in a growing pie. You seem to want to think: "Oh, no, it's better. Even if the pie shrinks it doesn't matter; we'll still try to argue in a confrontational way to get a bigger piece." There's no pie left. You get a bigger piece of nothing.

What happened to that kind of leadership? In this province it went out the window in 1985. Don't get me wrong. I wouldn't stand here and say that for 42 years Ontario was governed without mistakes being made. Of course there were mistakes made. These leaders of great integrity and compassion, these builders of this province were human beings. They did make the odd mistake from time to time, but on balance they built this province. They had the right balance of how much would be spent on infrastructure and how much would be spent on services. We prospered and were envied across the country. We're not envied today.

I was out west last fall for a week, meeting with people in the streets and meeting with workers and business people. Not one person said: "We're envious of Ontario. You get all the jobs and all the investment." For 42 years they were envious because we did get the majority of the jobs and most of the investment. Most people wanted to come here. Immigrants wanted to come here because there was hope and opportunity for them. They could better themselves. There were jobs here and better jobs than there were in other provinces or other jurisdictions.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** Then Brian Mulroney became Prime Minister.

**Mr Harris:** That's not the case today. In fact, those opportunities now are more alive in other provinces, with Brian Mulroney as Prime Minister of Canada. There is more opportunity in Alberta than in Ontario, more in British Columbia than in Ontario and more in Quebec than in Ontario. I hear the investors around the world like the Quebec bonds better now than Ontario bonds and are snapping them up faster than Ontario bonds.

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** You're joking.

**Mr Harris:** That's not a joke. You are a joke, sir.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Order. The honourable member for Nipissing has the floor, and if other members want the floor, their turn will come later.

**Mr Harris:** Obviously the member for St George-St David was right yesterday in his comments—provocative, but right.

The other thing that concerns us is what is not in the throne speech. There is no commitment to open Ontario for business. There is no commitment to say: "We want investment. We want you here. We welcome your entrepreneurship, your skills, your money, your dollars, your investment." In fact, everything in this throne speech says: "Go somewhere else. Government can do it better than you anyway. We don't want you." Those are the signals you are sending out.

**Sunday shopping:** There are people who want to work on Sunday. There are people who want to shop on Sunday. There are business people who want to open on Sunday, and you're saying no. "No, if you want to do that, move to the United States or Quebec or Manitoba," and so we lose 50,000, 100,000 more jobs.

**Our children:** With all the money you're spending—and you have increased spending in this province, you and your Liberal partners, like no other province has. Here are the figures since 1984-85. Here are the increases in spending since you rascals took over. Alberta increased its spending from 1985 to 1992 3.8% on average each year, Saskatchewan 4.7%, Nova Scotia 5.7%, Manitoba 5.9%, Quebec, 5.9%, New Brunswick 6.7%, Newfoundland 7.1%, PEI 7.7%, BC 7.9%, Ontario 10.6%.

**Why did you increase that spending for the seven years?** It wasn't for infrastructure; your percentage to infrastructure is less than we provided in the early 1980s. In 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985 a bigger percentage went to infrastructure.

**Where did it go?** In theory, it was supposed to go to the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the less fortunate; and with all that spending, there are more poor, more homeless, there is more need for food banks, there are more people on lists waiting for subsidized decent housing, more children in portables, more children doomed to an education inferior to what they had in 1985, more people on welfare, doomed to be unable to get the skills and the education and the retraining and the apprenticeship they need.

I say to you, Mr Speaker, that since 1985, with all the increases in spending, it has gone to theories, it has gone to bureaucracies—12,000 new civil servants and the kind of example I started with of Ontario Hydro. They're ripping us off and they're taking away hope for our children and



they're taking away hope for those less fortunate in this province, the very groups we want to help: natives, women, visible minorities, the disabled people in this province, the poor people in this province, those who do not have the skills for a job or do not have a job. You are destroying their hope and faith and belief in this province, in this country, and certainly in this government.

There will be many other areas the critics in my party will want to talk about, such as the member for Carleton on taxes and the inefficiency of Treasury and Economics, the lack of control. The member for Parry Sound will want to talk about intergovernmental affairs, the Constitution, this change in attitude that puts Ontario first, not the country first.

What a disgrace. Never in 42 years, never even with David Peterson, a Premier who destroyed this province economically with taxes—even David Peterson put the country first. Not this Premier. "Ontario wants its fair share," he said at the time of the first ministers' meeting at the most sensitive time in our country. "Ontario's paying more than it's getting." If Alberta and BC take that position, there's no country. I was embarrassed to be an Ontarian when your Premier spoke that way. I was embarrassed. I sent a letter to the Premier and I said: "I want to know what you're doing, I want to know what you're saying, or else we're not going to participate in that embarrassment," and I still haven't got an answer from the Premier.

1550

The member for Markham will be talking about the environment and how we're not helping the environment and what we can be doing in that area; and in citizenship, in race relations, in human rights, where we're falling behind.

The member for Simcoe East will speak on natural resources and mines and the disgrace now. Can you imagine? We're planting fewer trees. All this money—you're going to increase the budget 10%—and you're planting fewer trees? In fact, you're taking trees and saying, "Oh, we don't have enough money to plant them." I remember you rascals when you were over here saying, "You're not planting enough trees." You were right and we embarked on a program. The great Alan Pope, one of the best ministers of Natural Resources we ever had, got going, got the private sector growing trees. Now you're burying them, throwing them away, dumping them out. What a disgrace you are.

The member for Leeds-Grenville will be talking about the police and the lack of support you're giving to policing and enforcement and the disgraceful morale problems we're facing in this province. Sneaking in Susan Eng again for three years without telling anybody sent a signal to the police forces, not only in Metro but indeed across this province: "You don't count."

The member for S-D-G & East Grenville will speak on agriculture and our farm families, two million people in small-town and rural Ontario who are being ignored by this government.

The member for Burlington South will speak for seniors, who seem to be singled out for special punishment by this government, particularly those who've been successful.

Community and social services: The disgrace of ever-increasing thousands and thousands of people you're not providing programs for, to give them a hand up, to give them a hope that one day—

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** Spend, spend, spend.

**Mr Harris:** No, no, it's not "Spend, spend, spend," as the Treasurer says. You're spending the money. You're paying them to sit home and do nothing. You're paying them more and more money to sit home and do nothing when what they need is a training program, some work experience. In fact, it will cost you less money. You will have to put aside your socialistic ideology and say, "Let's help people get back to work." A good paying job is indeed the best form of welfare. That's what they need. Let's direct the programs in that way.

The member for Mississauga South will speak on housing and the disgraceful billions you're wasting with this ideology that government can build housing cheaper and better than the private sector. My gosh, you could help four times more people off those waiting lists if you'd simply help the people. Don't give the money to developers, to builders, to bricks, to mortar, whether it's non-profit or profit. Give the money to the people who need help. Give them a shelter subsidy so they can go and rent the existing units that are sitting out there vacant.

The member for London North will speak on colleges and universities and the deteriorating quality of education, the fact that we've abandoned excellence and we're falling farther and farther behind other provinces, other countries in education, skills development—although there is one thing: I got a sense from the throne speech that maybe you're going to scrap the Ministry of Skills Development. I've been calling for that for the last five years. Maybe you have listened. We'll see what happens.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Frank Miller created it.

**Mr Harris:** You know where Frank is today. You talk about some of the things we created. We're proud of creating the health care system. We're proud of creating the community colleges. We're proud of the education system. We were proud of the skills ministry when we set it up, but you guys have destroyed it all. You're a disgrace in a lack of management ability, in taking what was once the best in the world and destroying it. That's the problem. That's what's happened in the last seven years, since 1985.

The member for Wellington will be advocating for poor small business, tourism and recreation—the gas prices we have to pay and the deterioration there.

The member for Oakville South will speak on industry, trade and technology, practically the only spokesman there is in the province of Ontario. The member for Wilson Heights is a spokesman, but he's not in Ontario very much. He is knowledgeable. If he'd stay at home, he would be an ally to us, but certainly the member for Oakville South is the only one in this Legislature on a consistent basis advocating.

The member for Willowdale will speak on the Attorney General and the justice system and the unfairness there,



and native affairs, the disgrace of our natives. The programs you say you're bringing in are not helping.

The member for Grey will speak on municipal affairs, our poor municipalities being off-loaded. We tell them, "Go borrow more money, go into debt." Instead of all of us trying to get out of debt, you're telling more people to go into debt, and he'll be raising those issues.

The member for Lanark-Renfrew will speak on energy policy. We used to plan ahead for our energy needs or electricity needs and it used to be affordable in Ontario. In the last seven years you've stalled project after project and there have been massive increases, two, three, four times the rate of inflation. What are you doing? You're building nothing, you're planning nothing ahead. We used to err on the side of having a little surplus. When you could sell it for more than it cost to generate it, it wasn't a bad policy. But now you're planning right to the line. You may be self-fulfilling. We may not need new generation. We might not need more electricity because you're destroying the economic activity in this province. It may be self-fulfilling that way, but that's not the way we want to plan.

The member for Etobicoke West will speak on the GTA and how this part of the province is deteriorating, that taxes keep going up, most of them off-loaded by you. The commercial concentration tax: You sat over here and opposed it, said you didn't agree with it, then you went over there and changed your mind. Some would call it something else, but I can't use that word in the Legislature.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** Marteling.

**Mr Harris:** "Marteling" is the word; that's right. You were Marteling when you opposed it.

The member for Dufferin-Peel will be bringing forward consumer and commercial relations, financial institutions and the security and the integrity of our institutions here.

The member for York Mills will speak on transportation and government services, the tremendous inefficiencies there, the lack of commitment to infrastructure in this province.

The member for Simcoe West will be bringing forth the deterioration of our health care system and pointing out how you're heading in the wrong direction there, how since 1985 you rascals and your coalition have headed down this big spending way and destroyed the universal access we used to have in this province for 42 years.

The member for Waterloo North on women's issues and on labour will be bringing forth the disastrous direction the minister—the Minister of Labour is here; I might as well say it now. I don't see any sign that you can last, sir. I don't think you can last. I don't think you're capable of bringing business and labour together. I don't know whether there's anybody over there capable. I know this: The member for Waterloo North is capable and we're prepared to explore new ways. I told you we can't wait until 1995. If you want the member for Waterloo North in your cabinet as Minister of Labour, I will facilitate that and make it happen and we will get things going in this province.

She gave me a look like, "Well," but I know she would do it for the sake of this province.

Many of my caucus colleagues and critics will be coming forth with specific areas. You are looking here at a caucus not only united, not only in tune with the times, but very capable, the 20 of us, of running this province, starting tomorrow, far better than it's been run for the last seven years.

I would like to move the following amendment to the amendment to the motion.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve):** Mr Harris moves that the motion to amend the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor be amended by adding thereto the following:

"Failing to indicate that it will abandon the disastrous tax-borrow-and-spend fiscal policy pursued by successive governments since 1985 that seriously undermines the strong economic foundation that for 42 years provided equal access to the best social, education and health care programs in the world;

"Failing to provide effective leadership in the field of education required for excellence and ultimately to secure our children's futures;

"Ignoring the plight of those in border communities who are trying to keep their businesses open in order to make a living for their families and keep their employees working;

"Ignoring our besieged retail sector by not allowing Sunday openings and forcing thousands of retail workers, many of them women, out of work;

"Continuing to indulge in a pointless and futile attack on the policies of other levels of government at a time when a cooperative effort is required to resolve our nation's constitutional, social and economic policy;

"Creating an environment so hostile to private investors that Ontario is no longer the province of choice for job creators;

"Failure to understand the importance of agriculture and the values of small-town and rural Ontario to the province's prosperity;

"Failing to introduce policies and directions that will restore our confidence in the hope and opportunity that Ontario has traditionally enjoyed."

We will now move into further debate in the normal rotation. I want to remind members that we will now proceed with questions and/or comments for the speaker when he or she concludes his or her remarks.

1600

**Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings):** I want to speak today in support of the throne speech of our government. Very clearly, it focused on the economy. We know our economy is in a very dreadful state today. Certainly the message was clear in the throne speech. The message said, "Invest in Ontario, invest in the people of this province, invest in the infrastructure." It encouraged all aspects of our society to invest in Ontario and be cooperative and creative, because this is a very difficult time.

Why are we in the predicament we're in and why do people like to focus on and blame this government for this terrible recession the province finds itself in? It's very difficult

for me to understand, because I know it's something that's been cumulative; it's something that's taken a considerable length of time to arrive at and it's certainly something that's not our fault.

The recession right now is a global recession. It's a recession that has left many countries around the world wondering just what they're about, what they can do to improve their particular situation. As we look at North America we see that the United States, our largest trading partner to the south, is experiencing a very similar recession. Great Britain is experiencing a very similar recession. Many of the countries of Europe are experiencing a similar recession.

We here in Canada too are experiencing a very bad recession. Ontario, because it is recognized as the engine that drives the economy of Canada, is experiencing the worst recession of all. I think it is clear, again, that the recession is not our fault. There are many factions in society that would like to point the finger at this government and say that all the woes we are facing in Ontario today are the result of this government. I think it is clear that is not the case. In fact, when I sat on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs and watched many experts in finance and economics come through, they made the message very clear to the committee that indeed it was not this government that was responsible for the recession we find ourselves in. They even said that some of the things we had done in our last budget—not the budget we are expecting to see in another four, five or six weeks, but in the budget last year—were very necessary in order to make sure the people of Ontario did not suffer during the very beginning of this difficult recession.

We know now from these same experts that the recovery from this recession is not going to take place to the breadth we would like to think a recovery could take place. Again, that has to do with many global factors.

During times of recession, people like to point fingers and say just who is at fault, who is to blame. As I already indicated, certainly this government is not to blame, but when people are having difficult times they don't like to accept blame themselves. They like to find scapegoats whom they can point their fingers at and say: "It's their fault. It's this segment of society's fault that we're having difficult times. It's this group of people. It's this government. It's these representatives. It's this municipality."

We all have to understand that no one individual and no one group is responsible for this recession, yet we know that during these difficult economic times we see more and more racial tension, and I might even say hate-mongering in our society. Even here in Ontario people tend to point their fingers at segments of our society they would like to blame. They like to say, "It's their fault." They'd like to blame new Canadians for this recession. I would like to say very clearly that it is not the fault of any of these individuals.

It is a very complex and cumulative situation which makes it very difficult for any one person to stand up and say, "Yes, it's my fault," but having said that, I would like to say there are some factors over which this province has no control. These are problems that indeed the federal gov-

ernment does have control over. These factors include the value of the dollar; interest rates, which clearly the federal government does have control over; the free trade agreement, which I will not blame it for completely, but certainly it was a factor that led to many manufacturing jobs in Ontario disappearing.

Within the scope of the free trade agreement, I think it is clear that on a larger scale, global trade is impacting on the recession in Ontario. It makes it very difficult for all those people, especially in the manufacturing industry, to see their jobs disappear to other parts of the world, even to the United States, and to have the expectation that these jobs probably won't be coming back.

The state of our economy is changing and the jobs that will be created in the future probably will not be, in the majority, manufacturing jobs. In fact, what we will find, I'm sure, is that in this new wave we are in the age of information, and information services are something that maybe we in Ontario will have some strength in, creating jobs and changing the focus and direction of employment in Ontario.

What will it take to turn this economy around? As I said earlier, it's not going to happen very quickly, it's not going to happen to any great degree very soon, and that certainly leaves a lot of people fretting. A lot of people are hoping the government will indeed do what is required in order to encourage investment in Ontario, in order to encourage people to go back to work.

Let me say that during these very difficult times, the government does not have many options or choices with regard to investment in Ontario. I know the Treasurer will be making some very important decisions and bringing down the budget in four to five weeks. I anticipate and look forward to hearing what he has to say, because I am sure many of the things that were mentioned in the throne speech will be better defined in the budget when that becomes available.

1610

In better times, it was easier for governments to make decisions. There weren't the great highs and lows in the economy that we are experiencing now. Certainly we are experiencing a low with regard to the deficit and great expectations of just what we can do.

Recently I had the opportunity have some pre-budget consultations. People from my community had the opportunity to come forward and share with me their concerns, concerns about the direction the province was going in, concerns with regard to the proposals we might make in the budget, and certainly concerns with regard to three things: with regard to taxes and whether we should increase them or not increase them; with regard to programs and whether we should cut them or maintain them, whether we should create new ones or wait, and certainly with regard to the deficit.

There were concerns about whether the deficit should be allowed to grow at all, be reduced or grow significantly. I think these concerns that people brought forward to me were very clear, but let me say that there was never a consensus. When people came forward to raise issues concerning their own employment or their own management



areas, they would often consider that, yes, it could be advantageous to cut taxes, but they also knew it would impact directly on programs they were expecting the government to fund.

They were also concerned about the growth of the deficit. We know that as the deficit grows, it is certainly something we are going to pay down over a period of time. As we become more and more concerned about the future of this province, a large deficit is something we do not want future generations to have to be concerned with.

So what do we do? Do we cut taxes? Do we cut programs? Do we allow the deficit to grow? These are the questions that are plaguing the government and these are the questions that the people of Ontario want answered. The people of Ontario themselves are not sure exactly how these questions should be answered. I think it makes it very difficult for us too, as a government, to make these decisions.

When the Premier speaks of some of the very difficult decisions we are making as a government right now, it brings some interesting remarks from members on the opposite side of the House. Certainly where we have taken opportunities to cut and reduce some of the province's expenditures, it means that, yes, there have been some program cuts. Suddenly we hear members of the opposition, members of the third party saying: "We can't accept these cuts. They're unacceptable and you'll have to do something else." It is interesting to hear the people on the opposite side of the House say, "You can't cut these programs but you can't raise taxes, and you'll really be in trouble if you allow the deficit to grow."

There is a dilemma there that we have a great deal of difficulty with, and I don't know exactly what the solution is. We're going to have to grapple with that and just see what we can do.

The members opposite say, "Don't raise taxes." The members opposite also say, "Don't cut any programs." They also say, "Don't let the deficit go any higher." If you compare these three things, it's clear that what they're saying is something that is impossible for this government to do. I'm sure it would be impossible for them to do if they were in power, and I'm sure it would be impossible for the third party too if it were in power.

What will turn the economy around? It is very interesting. I watched the news last night and listened to an expert from the Royal Bank who said that in the scale of the global economy, with the fact that the world is watching Canada and watching Ontario right now, the biggest factor that's a hindrance to investment in Canada and in Ontario, because obviously Ontario is in Canada, is the fact that we can't get our act together with regard to the unity of this country. When other questions were put to this particular individual, he said, "No, clearly the number one thing is the problem we're having with our unity in Canada."

When we stop and think about that, I think he is right. The world's waiting, the world's watching and the world wants to see what we're going to do. Are we going to have a referendum? I don't know. What is Canada going to do with regard to its future? The world wants to know, and the sooner we collectively make that decision in Canada, the

sooner we send the message to the world that we're going to stay together—and God, I hope we do. Or if the choice is that we don't stay together, the sooner that message is sent out there, surely the better our economy will become sooner.

I often hear it said that people aren't willing to invest in Ontario, that investment is down, that people are leaving and that businesses are going to the United States. I understand that yes, indeed some businesses are going to the United States, but not many. In fact, investment in Ontario for the year ending February 1992 was up 3.5% from the year previous. I think that sends the clear message that people are willing and people are still investing in Ontario.

To those people who would like to suggest that business is not investing here, the amount it invested in Ontario last year, ending February 1992, was a little more than \$21 billion. That is a significant amount and I think it sends a message. It tells us that regardless of what people who are opposed to this government would like to say, regardless of all the fearmongering the opponents of this government would like to have other people in the world and certainly people in Ontario believe, it's clear that people are still willing, businesses are still willing to invest in the province, and to a very large degree, I might add.

I would like to say too that everything isn't entirely bad in Ontario. In my riding an announcement just last Monday said that the Goodyear plant in Napanee, in Richmond township in fact, began to hire some 130 people at its plant. The Goodyear plant is a state-of-the-art plant. It's probably the best and most efficient tire plant in the world. They believe the economy is going to grow sufficiently so that they can indeed make these moves and hire additional people to work at their plant to increase their production from 8,000 to 14,000 tires per day.

So there are some signals out there that things aren't entirely bad—difficult indeed, and certainly I would have to agree. I guess there isn't anyone here who would say our economy isn't in a difficult situation. Again, I want to say it isn't the fault of this government. The experts will reaffirm that statement. But yes, people are expecting the government to assist them and do some things that will help turn the economy around.

We have very limited opportunities to do that and we're expecting investment from the business community, we're expecting investment from other sectors of society. As the throne speech said very clearly, we're hoping that people are willing to invest in Ontario. The government is willing to invest in the infrastructure. We want to know that other people are willing to invest and that we can have cooperation in Ontario that will allow us to build a province that's productive, efficient and prepared to meet the demands that will be placed on it as the economy grows and as the world becomes a more competitive place. We want to see Ontario grow and flourish in the future.

In conclusion, I absolutely support the speech from the throne. It focused on the economy and gave some good direction as to what the government should do in order to improve things in Ontario. With cooperation from all concerned, I have no doubt that in time we'll see a province

that is renewed, rejuvenated and ready to meet the future needs of the people of Ontario.

1620

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** It's a pleasure, after a rather interesting winter season and the beginning of the spring season, to participate in the throne speech debate. I wonder if you wouldn't mind, Mr Speaker, if I just begin by offering my congratulations to our new leader, with whom I was contesting the leadership of the party. If I might say so, the entire process our party went through was not only very helpful to us; I think it set a very high standard for political campaigning for Ontario and indeed for Canada. All of us who were candidates are delighted with the result.

I put that forward with a grain of salt. Obviously each one of us was in the campaign in order to win, but I think it's safe to say that I and the four other candidates who didn't win grew in respect for one another during that process. I would commend the process to any party looking for a new leader. I'm not sure if the Tories are there yet or if they're going to be there soon, but of course those rumours are always floating around in this place. Although the leader of the third party did sound—

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** Wonderful.

**Mr Sorbara:** My friend the member for London North says he sounded wonderful. I had to put in both my earplugs to moderate the volume somewhat, but I guess his style is his own.

Just to conclude in that regard, we are delighted with the way in which we went through the process, and every one of us is so proud about the way our new leader has taken office and the new standards she has set, but most important—and I think this is worth underlining—the new themes she has brought to our party that she has already brought to this Parliament in its opening days and that we know she will bring to the province over the course of the next two and a half years and as the next Premier of this province.

It's rather difficult to think of very much good to say about the throne speech. I am reminded of the comments made yesterday in question period, a quote in fact from the member for York South and now the Premier of the province describing his own view about throne speeches. This goes back to his days in opposition: "The throne speech is propaganda, an exercise in creative advertising. I think it is utterly irrelevant. It has got nothing to do with what governments do."

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** That was your throne speech.

**Mr Sorbara:** My friend the Minister of the Environment says that was our throne speech. That of course is not the case. Those were the Premier's comments about throne speeches generally. Let's be fair and honest and acknowledge what he was talking about at the time. If that's the case, the throne speech of three days ago really succeeded and in fact reached new standards if you adopt and apply

the standards applied to throne speeches by the member for York South, the Premier of Ontario.

My God, was it a media advertising exercise around here last Monday. All the documents were printed and ready to hand out. The Premier was there, after the throne speech was delivered, moving from CFTO to CBC to CTV to the local networks; a clip for radio, availability sessions. The paper was churned out. Here's the press release that tells how the throne speech is going to help education: one word in the throne speech about education, that we're going to have some reforms. Here's how the throne speech is going to make the environment our top priority. "Here's what we're going to do for women. Here's what we're going to do in the area of government reform." It was all laid out there ready for absorption by the media invited down there en masse to absorb it and send it over the air waves and the newspapers of the province. It's all propaganda. It's advertising. It doesn't have anything to do with what government really does, in particular what this government is going to do.

I want to point out one paragraph from the Premier's first throne speech back in November 1990; it was a classic in throne speech propaganda. The Premier began with a reference to integrity. He promised that his new government would set new standards in integrity: "We will bring in standards. We will bring in a law dealing with conflict of interest. We will set these new standards and we'll abide by them."

Almost a year and a half has passed. The member for Ottawa Centre, once the Minister of Health, resigned. The member for Cambridge, once the Solicitor General, resigned. For some reason we still haven't figured out, the member for Welland-Thorold, then the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, was thrown out of office. We've never quite understood that. You get your picture taken in the Toronto Sun—not, in my view, the classiest of newspapers—and you're thrown out of cabinet. The member for Kitchener, who was for a while the Minister of Energy, is gone. The member for Fort York, once the Minister of Culture and Communications, is gone. And the saddest part of all was the experience with the member for Sudbury East, still the Minister of Northern Development.

I feel badly about what has happened in respect of what is now described as the Martel affair because I had, and I guess continue to have, a great deal of respect for that member as a politician. I remember when I was the Minister of Labour and she was my critic and I brought forward a very controversial bill, Bill 162; it dealt with reforms to the workers' compensation system. She was aggressive and determined and forceful in her criticisms of the bill. She did what she had to do as an opposition member. Yet when she debases the office of a ministry of this government, she sets her own career and the Premier sets her career above the standards the Premier described in a throne speech that is only 17 months old.

Harry Truman said it best when he described the nature of the office of the presidency of the United States. He said it's not the office holder who is important. He said: "I personally should command no particular respect. It's the office that demands the respect. We just pass through.



Governments change. New ministers are appointed. Our careers as individuals are singularly unimportant. It's the office that demands respect." If while holding the office you debase the office, then you step down for a while. You step aside. You acknowledge it publicly, because you want to maintain the high standards of the office for the next office holder.

She said: "I slandered a doctor. I lied. I lost my temper." All of us lose our tempers. I think all of us should admit now and again that we warp the truth or lie.

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: As I look through the orders of business for today, I thought we were debating the speech from the throne.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve):** That we are. It's not a point of order.

We need an announcement to be made before 5 of the clock, and I will take this opportunity while I have the floor.

#### NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve):** Pursuant to standing order 33(a), the member for York Mills has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Transportation concerning vehicle and driver's licence offices. This matter will be debated today at 6 of the clock.

1630

**Mr Sorbara:** I'll tell my friend across the aisle that he stands up on a matter that is not a point of order. The traditions of this House are that throne speech debates are the very broadest kind of debates this chamber is allowed. The general thrust of where the province is going, what is happening in your riding or my riding, what has been happening in the province, what the content of the speech is or where we should be going, is valid subject matter.

I think I am talking very close to the matter. The point I am trying to make is that this throne speech is a perfect example of propaganda, advertising, non sequitur and irrelevant information that does not describe, on the one hand, the problems Ontario is facing, and on the other hand, the solutions the government really is preparing to put into place. That is the great sadness of it, that we bring all these media folks down here, write up these grand words, bring in a whole crowd of people and ask the Lieutenant Governor to read a speech and it has very little to do with anything. When a government like your government is at 28% in the polls, it is designed to raise us up a little bit.

The terrible regret I have is that this throne speech doesn't even reflect the true principles of a party that preaches social democracy. The Premier used to describe himself as a social democrat. Where are the social democratic principles in this throne speech? People are not very fond of politicians these days because we seem to be able to put on different clothes, take on different views, have different principles and express different attitudes based on the prevailing wind. Where are our principles? Where is a discussion of the plight of unemployed people in this throne speech?

The Premier says, "This is a jobs throne speech." He sounds like Mulroney, for God's sake, when Mulroney stood up and said, "Jobs, jobs, jobs." That is what he sounds like. It has nothing to do with the principles you really believe in. When the now Premier said, when he was Leader of the Opposition, "We will eliminate food banks," I expected he would come here and eliminate food banks. When he says, in opposition and in his first throne speech, "We're going to nationalize the automobile insurance industry," I expect to come to this chamber and see a bill. When he says, "We need to expand and extend the welfare system," as he has preached for years and years, I expect him to do something about that.

What do we read in the paper now? "Bob Rae doesn't want Ontario to become a welfare state." Who are we supposed to believe? You elect someone who says the welfare system needs to be expanded and needs to encompass more people. We did a study on it. The now Premier said: "That's not good enough. It even has to go further." Now he puts on the clothes of a Premier and different words come out of his mouth. That has the people of Ontario and Canada so terribly upset they do not know who to believe.

Look at what else happened, I tell my friend from Etobicoke, on the day of the throne speech. Not a word about lotteries, and yet all the press was about lotteries because the government, this social democratic government that used to describe our system of lotteries as a tax on the poor, is going to be putting casinos in Ontario. Hallelujah. Now our sons and daughters can be assured of full-time employment dealing cards to some bimbo from Baltimore all night long. This is a great employment opportunity. Just think of it, we can now have our kids dealing out the cards there to the bimbos from Baltimore who come to Ontario, the great casino capital of Canada. This is economic progress. We could even take on a little bit of Las Vegas glitter.

At the same time, do you know what the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is going to do? She is going to take the sexism out of beer commercials. This is another example of political pandering. Car commercials are all right, and perfume commercials can be as sexist and offensive as you want them to be, but the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, because it is politically opportune to say it, is going to bring in regulations taking out the sexism—covering up the ladies in the beer commercials. Give me a break. Are we now going to censor all ads that appear on the televisions of our province because she's got a little bit of a political agenda?

But the casino thing really grips me, because even before I was in this place, those folks, when they were in opposition, used to shed tears when they talked about how offensive it was that we would have Wintario and Lottario in the province. We were taxing the poor. "Who's going to buy the tickets?" they would say. "It's the poor and the destitute, who should be given real opportunity instead of having to rely on a one-in-10-billion chance of winning the jackpot." Now they're going to bring us casinos.

But for me the very worst thing about this propaganda, this throne speech, this little bit of pandering, was its attack on the federal government. I don't think in my seven-year

political career I have ever had occasion to defend the federal government and I don't intend to do so now. I want to make it very clear that I think the policies of the Mulroney government have so seriously damaged this country economically, socially, culturally, and particularly constitutionally, that we are now at risk of not being a country, and I lay that at the feet of the Prime Minister, because I believe he is chiefly responsible.

But what is worse than even what Mulroney has done is what the Premier of this province did just a few short weeks ago at the first ministers' conference on the economy. In the midst of all the difficulties we have in this nation, and in the midst of an economic situation which has virtually every government—federal, 10 provinces, two territories and thousands of municipalities—on the verge of bankruptcy, the Premier takes the opportunity at a first ministers' conference to begin a little game of name-calling, of slandering. The federal government, he says, is an absconding debtor.

I want to tell you something, my friend: We are all of us in debt. We are all of us in very serious debt. Our economy can no longer produce the kind of wealth that will pay for the goods and services we want. The provincial government in Ontario is in that situation. The federal government in Canada is in that situation. Municipal governments all over the country are in that situation.

But what is worse about what the Premier said when he started his little game of name-calling is that he said they had shortchanged us \$3 billion, and in fact: "We want another \$1 billion for capital works. What we want from the federal government is an additional \$4 billion." That would satisfy him. Then Ottawa wouldn't be an absconding debtor. "We want another \$4 billion."

I ask my friends over there, where will that money come from? I agree that we need it, but where will it come from? It will come from the taxpayers of Ontario. That's the only place where the federal government could raise that amount of money and spend it in this province. Surely the Premier is not suggesting that you tax the farmers who are being foreclosed in Saskatchewan or the fishermen in Newfoundland or the unemployed in British Columbia. Where is this money going to come from? It's going to come from the taxpayers of Ontario. That's the only source of money any government has, taxpayers.

So what the Premier was saying, in effect, if you clear away the rhetoric, is, "Mulroney, I want you to levy additional taxes in Canada"—read Ontario—"so you take the heat at the federal level for levying the additional taxes, and increase your transfers to us." He says: "We don't have any more tax room. We're down at 28% in the polls." Forgive me, I say to the Premier, but Brian Mulroney is at 15% in the polls. Is he going to levy additional taxes? There's no more tax room.

1640

Our systems are failing us. Our economy is not generating the kind of wealth we must have in order to maintain and enhance the quality of the services that we as governments provide for people. For the Premier, in the midst of the pressure that he is under, which is understandable, to get in a mudslinging match with Mulroney is offensive in

the extreme. To say, "You in Ottawa tax my citizens, my residents, the people of Ontario; you take the heat for taxing, transfer it to us and we'll take the political credit for increasing our services," is the height of ridiculousness, stupidity and—

**Interjection:** Hypocrisy.

**Mr Sorbara:** Hypocrisy, yes. I thank my friend from Mississauga. But even worse than that, we're in such trouble in Canada. We're experiencing such difficulties: language difficulties, cultural difficulties; we can't figure out how to use the "notwithstanding" clause; we don't know how many societies need to be constitutionally entrenched as distinct.

The original peoples of this nation in the main live in a state of poverty and disaffiliation that is becoming part of our bad reputation around the world. Our economy is failing. The Premier in this throne speech gave us propaganda. He prefaced it with a stupid, unacceptable battle with the federal Minister of Finance, Don Mazankowski, which left a bad taste in the mouths of virtually every Canadian who experienced it.

Why not, in a throne speech, once in the life of this Parliament stand up and tell the truth? The truth is rather simple: that the winds of change sweeping the world are sweeping over Ontario as well; that the economic infrastructure we have had since the war no longer provides enough; that the structures of governments and the answers we used to provide to our problems no longer work; that we need inventive and creative new solutions.

Most especially we need to put people back to work. We need to move heaven and earth to put people back to work. We need to think from now on in Ontario about making full employment of our people the centrepiece of our policies, whether they be economic, social or cultural. To be without work in a modern economy and a modern society like Ontario's is a burden too heavy to bear, and we ought not tolerate it any more. To me, that is the standard you have to use in evaluating whether or not there is any substance in this throne speech.

Let's go to the heart of it: the amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act that are being promised in this throne speech. I was a Labour minister for about two years in this province. I understand the various themes behind and underneath the reforms that are, I guess, being proposed. We haven't seen a bill yet. I must say that objectively these reforms, even in total, don't represent a dramatically, radically different approach, and I agree with the Premier when he says that many of these reforms are already in place somewhere in some jurisdiction in North America. But how do they measure up against our current problems? Will they expand opportunities for people right now?

The answer—and I say this particularly to those of my colleagues who were elected for the first time in the election of September 1990—resides in your constituency offices. I take my constituency office to be the pulse of the province because the problems I hear about in that office reflect what really is happening, not only in the riding of York



Centre but right around the province in some respect or other.

Right now in my constituency office there's just one typical appointment: a man or a woman coming in to ask help to find a job. "What can you do for me, sir, Mr Sorbara?" they say. "What can you do for me to help me get a job?" "My mortgage is due." "I haven't paid my rent in the past three months." "I have sent out 200 résumés." "This is having a very bad effect on my family." "I'm desperate." "Should I be moving out of the province?" "Can you help me?"

I haven't heard one person over the past four years come into my office and say, "We tried to organize a trade union, but the rules that are in place didn't work and they defeated us." Not one person has said that to me over the past seven years. Nobody has said that. Nobody has said to me: "My goodness, we've got a great group of workers here. We tried to organize a trade union and we were almost there. We signed up the people but the rules defeated us." I haven't heard that complaint once, and yet we're going to bring in new rules. Is this going to move us closer towards full employment?

I say with all due respect to the Minister of Labour, who I know has a very difficult job, that his bill, which ultimately will pass in this House—they have the majority—is, in an abstract sense, not really a big deal, but frankly it is the wrong bill at this time. So too with most of the other stuff that is in the throne speech.

There is a good thing or two. The green strategy I applauded in the local press in my own community, and I applaud here. I think it's good. I think the technologies we can develop in Ontario can make us leaders in environmental technology, and we should be giving governmental assistance in that area. But for anything else I'm of the same view as most of the commentators who have written about this throne speech, whether it's Tom Walkom or the commentators in the Toronto Sun, the Globe and Mail or the local newspapers, and I've read many of them. Some of them say the government has no new ideas, and that's the sad reality. The great socialist experiment, the reformists, the people who were to be the conscience of the province and the conscience of the nation come to government and they have no ideas. Those that they had they abandoned, and having abandoned those, they can't think of anything else to do.

Most of the stuff in the throne speech are things that have been worked on in Ontario for some long time, and I guess we'll get some of those. Most of it won't be achieved. Most of it will just die in the battles that go on here. Much of it is unrealistic, and that's the sadness of it. If I had my way I think we would just throw out the whole throne speech process altogether. We don't need the propaganda. Governments shouldn't indulge in free advertising. If we eliminated it perhaps we could get down to the real business of the people, which is what we were elected to do.

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** I wanted to comment on a couple of the remarks made by the member for York Centre. He talked about the references in the throne speech to the federal government and the meeting a couple

of weeks ago between the premiers, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. He talked about the exchange that occurred. I think it is important that the people of this province understand what the background is for that type of exchange.

The fact is that we all know the federal government has put caps on transfers to the so-called "have" provinces. They've done it in the areas of universities and colleges, health care and social assistance. That's while Ontario is going through the worst recession since the 1930s and we've been more affected, we've had more unemployment and more people on social assistance. At the same time, when they asked the premiers for some assistance on ideas, on some leadership, on how we can work together, the premiers came before and offered ideas. Then we saw a federal budget that said: "We're going to stand pat. We're not going to work with the provinces. We're not going to work together to help them through these difficult times."

I think it's important that all members and the people of this province understand that this government, as outlined in the throne speech, is prepared to work with the federal government.

What really irks the people of this province and irks me, as a member representing them, is the fact that the federal government doesn't want to participate. Then what does it go and do? It blames this government for having a high deficit. It says: "Do what we do: Don't do anything. Don't raise taxes. Have a low deficit." You can't have that both ways. The federal government is not providing any leadership, not by itself. The Premier never asked them to do it all by themselves; they asked us to join with them. That's what this government wants to do: work cooperatively with all levels of government and all sectors of the economy.

1650

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** I would certainly like to commend my colleague the member for York Centre for his excellent speech in this House today. What he said is what my constituents in Eglinton are saying to me every time I go out to a meeting, every time I have a constituent in my office and every time we're on the telephone: People do not have confidence in this government.

They say, "Oh, but it's not our fault." This government says: "The federal government is to blame. It is the previous Liberal provincial government which is to blame. It is the business community which is just being very selective about what they want to believe and not giving us the opportunity to show our stuff." But what the member for York Centre pointed out was, people do not have confidence in this government because they don't feel this government is competent. Look at the number of ministers who have been either fired or have resigned since this government came into office a year and a half ago: nine ministers, and that doesn't count the ones who should resign because of incompetence or because they do not meet the standards of the people of this province for our cabinet.

When the member for York Centre says these things, he's not making up fairy stories; he's saying what the people



of this province believe. When he talks about what people come into his constituency office and seek help for, it is on the matter of jobs, on the economy, on bankruptcy. They aren't coming in to say they're not getting the union benefits they need. We have very solid labour laws in this province that have been very protective. I think it's time this government put its priorities to work and talked about what the people of this province are talking about.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** I'm happy to enter into debate on this subject. I thought the comments were reasonably fair and well placed. I find it very interesting, depending on whose ox is being gored, how this Premier reacts to specific issues. He suggests at the time that the federal government isn't paying its fair share to the operation of this province. I direct this directly across the floor.

I come from Metropolitan Toronto and sat there for some eight or nine years. During that time we in Metropolitan Toronto, under all governments, including this one, have not received anywhere near an equitable proportion of the money we generate to operate this province. In fact, we in Metropolitan Toronto receive not dime one in education funding from this province. Proportionately across this province in boards of health, they receive up to 60% funding for their boards of health; only in Metropolitan Toronto do they receive 40% funding. Only in Metropolitan Toronto do you have a commercial concentration tax. That's a specific tax on a specific city for specific people.

If this Premier is going to go to Ottawa and complain about being unfairly treated, may I suggest that he clean up his own backyard and deal with all cities, all jurisdictions and all regions within the province equally? If not, then the Premier should not go to Ottawa and demand the same treatment that all provinces get.

Further, we in Toronto understand it. We were a wealthy city, and there are those less fortunate. We in this province should understand as well that we can't have as much as some other provinces because we are more fortunate. Shame on you, NDP. That's what you used to stand for.

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** I'd like to address what my colleague said about the question of the integrity and the image of politicians. I find it passing strange when a government with the huge majority the NDP has gets into power and in a throne speech doesn't address the most important issue in this province, our children, in terms of educational spending. Particularly in the region of Peel, people there are finding that their education is just going down the tube. It's not as a result of the trustees; the trustees are working very hard within the limited budgets they have.

This government can't cry—I mean, it's one pocket. It can't say that because the feds won't pass it down to the province, it in turn is going to take it out on the municipalities and the school boards. That's not good enough.

The people of this province elected that government in September. They expected that the education system that had been maintained in a very fine and traditional fashion would continue. There's not one word in the budget that

would encourage people whose children are going to have a deterioration in their educational system and the trustees who are working very hard to try to use the limited funds they have to keep the system at its best.

I find that incomprehensible, and I suggest that my colleague's comments about the integrity of politicians and the image they project are certainly not being reflected in that throne speech. I suggest that he's dead-on that a throne speech which does not provide for one of the most important commodities in our community, our children, is in fact a throne speech that should be thrown away, because it has absolutely no relevance in today's world. It does not address the most important features that are existing in this community.

With the polls putting them at—what?—27%, the people out there are telling those people, "We put you in office to rule and govern and to look after this province, not to complain about what Ottawa is doing to you."

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve):** This completes the area of questions and/or comments. The honourable member for York Centre has two minutes in reply.

**Mr Sorbara:** I appreciate the comments of both the member for Brampton South and the member for Eglinton and indeed the member for Etobicoke West. My reply really is going to be directed to the member for Oxford. I guess I simply have a piece of advice for him, which is that he not continue down that line of rhetoric and fed-bashing about how we're being shortchanged and how we're providing 40% of the revenue to the federal government and we're only getting 32 cents in return.

If that becomes a major theme of the New Democratic Party government in Canada, we are finished. We're finished. We are saying, out of the mouth of the Premier of Ontario, that the fishermen in Newfoundland have no interest in the economic wellbeing of Ontario. We're saying to the out-of-work steelworkers at Sysco in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia—wherever it is—that they have no interest, and that can't be. That cannot be. We can't allow the debate in Canada to come down to that. The workers in Newfoundland and the workers in every province of Canada have an interest in us and our wellbeing, as we have an interest in theirs. If Bob Rae, for his politically expedient purposes, is going to engage in that kind of rhetoric and encourage his backbenchers to engage in that kind of rhetoric, we have problems even more serious than I thought before.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve):** I want to remind all members that, indeed, when referring to another member, it would be really appreciated to use his title, such as "the Premier" or "the minister" or "the member for such-and-such." Further debate on the speech from the throne.

1700

[Applause]

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** I appreciate the applause and the opportunity to share a few thoughts. I must confess, though, when you get up to talk here a year or so later, it's difficult to know where to start. I'm going to set it up and then I'm going to get into some of this.



This is my mail since Christmas on a couple of issues, the responses on the economy; some of you may not have put it together quite like this. These are the replies I've seen, virtually 97% of them criticism of this government. Rather than get up here and speak about my thoughts, I'm going to talk a bit about some of the things in here, because these are the replies I've had on the most important issues of the day.

The people of this province were looking for a throne speech that was going to set a direction, and when we heard the throne speech on Monday it was very clear we have not changed direction. We've got a situation of high taxation, high government spending, high unemployment, low productivity, and nothing in the speech from the throne will do anything to help the people of this province.

Our social structure in this province is being stretched to the limit, with soaring costs for health, education and welfare. The issues of crime and poverty in this province seem to be growing faster than we can respond to them. In spite of everything, we in this province still have one of the highest standards of living of any of the people on this planet, but our time is short. As these pressures continue to mount, many of Ontario's blessings are now at risk. I want to share a few thoughts specifically on this and hope there will be time to get into some of these issues that are very pressing, and I'm going to talk a little on some of the industrial strategy that was outlined.

We've been hoping for about a year now that we were going to get some indication. This government came in and said it was anti-business. Everybody was looking for some type of assurance in the throne speech that finally they had put something together. Instead, we hear we're going to establish the Ontario investment fund, which is basically an admission that nobody is going to invest in Ontario so we've got to do it ourselves.

The member for Waterloo North and I went up and spoke to a Japanese company in her area, and they said: "Gary, Elizabeth, we know you're fighting for us. We used to get calls from all over the world about investing in Ontario. We used to tell them it was a great place to invest. We're telling them today, 'Don't come to Ontario, because it's not a good place to invest.'" The obvious question is, "Why don't you come out and say that?" They say, "We're afraid if we do that this government will hold it against us."

We met with German bankers and they said: "For obvious reasons, we're putting money into eastern Europe. Obviously, because of the close ties and with Germany reunited now, we're putting money in there, but if we have any more money, we're telling them, 'Don't come to Ontario, because it's not a good place to invest.'"

One third of the businesses in Ontario, according to a recent Canadian Federation of Independent Business study, say they are thinking of moving all or some of their operations out of Ontario, and 88% have scaled down their investment plans since that last disastrous budget a year ago.

This was an admission: "Nobody is going to invest in Ontario, so we're going to do it ourselves. We're going to take the pension money and then we're going to decide what sector and what companies are going to survive;

we'll put the money into those." As recently as this morning, when I spoke at the Ontario Economic Council, the people who deal with these issues, they said one of the problems we get is that when you give company X money, company Y says, "Why didn't we get it?" That's what we're going to be into with this, and it's a clear admission that in Ontario nobody will invest, so the government's got to do it. I guess we shouldn't be surprised.

**Municipalities:** Today in Ontario, our accumulated deficit is costing us \$15,000 a minute—not for good roads or the health care system or the education system; just to pay the interest on the provincial deficit alone it is costing us \$15,000 a minute. Federally it's costing us about \$60,000. So what does this government do in this speech from the throne? They say the federal government's bankrupt; that started in the early 1980s. In the early 1990s this government bankrupted Ontario. So now we go to the next level, and we'll give municipalities more authority to borrow so they can become as bankrupt as we are.

We got new resources committed to the backlog of the Ontario Municipal Board. At the same time they do that, on the Sunday shopping law that came in they gave the appeal process to the OMB. At the same time they're bringing in Mr Martin to streamline the bureaucracy, they turn around and add new cases into it. It's little wonder we're backed up. What is it now, 12 to 18 months in that area?

We've got the introduction of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. That's going to be an interesting thing. Every party agrees we need to do more training in this province: 59% of businesses say they can't find the skilled people necessary in this province. So we've got OTAB and the discussion paper that is going to look at that. I've had more calls over the last couple of days about that. The member for London South was speaking about some of those issues today. The people of this province are going to let them know exactly what they want to see in it, because they don't believe this government will make the right decisions in that area.

I think of all the replies I got, and here they are. It was depressing reading going through a lot of these; people saying that when the labour legislation comes in, they're going to leave. The first one here is from a man who has 160 employees in my riding. He says:

"Dear Premier Rae:

"You're proposed new labour legislation will probably convince me to close down my operation and move to the US, as many other transportation companies have done. We will be taking with us 160 jobs."

I've received replies from companies with eight employees, 250 employees; I will be tabling these because I want the Premier and the Minister of Labour to realize exactly what the human tragedy will be if they bring in that labour legislation.

One chap sent me an economic reply to the Premier. This could have been the throne speech done in about 10 seconds. He says:

"You should adopt a zero-base budgeting plan. You should reduce taxes"—it's all in point form; we didn't need to bring in the Lieutenant Governor to read it; we

could have had this in point form—"You've got to reduce government spending, reduce the provincial debt, reduce the government workforce, approve full-scale Sunday shopping, implement a sunset clause in new and existing government programs, cut the public service by about 15%"—and this last one I really like—"Bob Rae should get another job that he's more qualified for." That one I think I agree with more than anything else.

We've got page after page of replies that have come in from the people of this province who are discouraged and upset. If the anti-business strategy of this government is going to drive investment out, then just change it. If the labour legislation is going to drive businesses out of this province, then don't introduce it. This is not radical thinking; this is just common sense. This is literally what the people are saying in a pile about 12 inches high here, about what the government should be doing, and it isn't listening.

Instead we get this throne speech that talks about some of the things the government intends to do. It's a vague outline of a strategy. It's an admission that their industrial policy has died. They championed all the companies that were getting money. Each of the ones that they say are investing have done so with government money. Nobody else in Ontario will do it, so the government has to step in.

The Premier came out to my riding and had a big splash about the General Electric opening; they were going to be able to keep 200 jobs. On the same day he did it, he admitted he had spent about a year on that. Instead of getting in there and looking at the taxes and regulations to allow it, he spent virtually a year working on that. The same day that was announced, "We're going to keep 200 jobs," about 600 jobs in Mississauga were reported lost. So here's a Premier who spends all his time working on one particular project, and the same day it's announced that we lose three times as many jobs in the neighbouring riding of Mississauga.

Here's a Premier who went over to Europe to try to get people to invest in Ontario, and a lot of the people didn't even want to meet with him. I think most of them did it out of courtesy. What he should be doing is getting an investment climate here so that people would want to come to Ontario.

Our leader earlier talked a little about what it was like here in Ontario. I grew up in the greatest province and the greatest country in the world. Things weren't perfect for those 42 years, but on balance, we had lower taxes, we had fewer people on welfare, we had a health care system that was the pride and envy of the world, we had an education system that was the pride and envy of the world. On balance, we had prosperity. It was a land of opportunity, hope and prosperity.

Now all the other provinces look at it and it's gone down the tubes, and it isn't just because of this government. We started going down that road under the previous government. We had one philosophy over the last five years: anything that moved in this province, we taxed it; if it still moved after all this, we regulated it; then ultimately when it went out of business, we turned around and subsidized it.

This throne speech says: "That's the way we're going to operate. The only investment that will come in the province of Ontario is through the pension fund, because nobody else will invest in Ontario."

1710

I am a business person since I quit playing hockey and got thrown out of that profession; for the last 10 years I have been involved in business. I wanted to take this critic's position for Industry, Trade and Technology because I thought it was going to be an interesting position to get; to meet with business groups and talk about trade, industry and technology. It has become the most depressing critic's role because everywhere you go you get complaints from people: "This is a terrible government for business. We don't know why we want to stay here." That is a sad commentary on a province that used to be the pride of the world. People used to line up to come to this province. Now we are saying to them, "The only way you can come to this province is if we take the pension money and give it to you because nowhere else will anybody invest in Ontario."

We had a throne speech that was going to set the direction. We thought, when we came back after Christmas: "Okay, we'll give them a little time. They didn't realize they would be elected. They need a bit of time for that." That was the first session; then they did not have a game plan in place. So we thought we would give them a little extra time to get their throne speech together.

My goodness, I don't know what they've been working on since Christmas, but this is what we get. When I reflected on the last throne speech, I guess the only good thing about it was that they talked about how they were going to change. I think the wording was that they were going to listen to the people who had never had the levers of power before.

I sit on the committee that interviews the appointments. This government has moved faster than any government in the history of this province to get its NDP friends on every board, agency and commission. We saw the culmination of that today: Mr Martin is going to streamline the bureaucracy of the OMB.

It used to be that things worked in this province. We were talking on Friday, all of us and the previous speaker talked about what it's like in Ontario and the calls we get. You have the OMB backed up 12 to 18 months; you have the \$10-billion unfunded liability of the Workers' Compensation Board. We spend 60% of our time dealing with workers' compensation some days. That system doesn't work.

We had the pleasure of asking the chairman when he came in: "What're you going to do with the WCB? You have a \$10-billion unfunded liability. What's your plan?" This was the appointment of the chairman. He said, "I really don't have a plan." I said: "When are you going to get a plan? You have the position now. You come in here and you want us to approve it. When are you going to have a plan?" "Maybe we will have one by the time the annual report comes out."

Here is a person who had spent some time on the WCB cause in the past, I understand, who came in with no plan



of what he was going to do. We wonder why the unfunded liability keeps going up. Businesses are worried that this is going to be passed on to them in the form of a higher payroll tax. There was nothing in the throne speech to change any of that.

Over the last little while we have offered what we thought would be practical solutions. We talked about some of the things politicians don't want to talk about. We said, "If you're going to give your transfer agents 1%, 2% and 2% for municipalities, school boards and universities, when their costs are tied to salaries"—as most of them are; school boards at 80%—"you should have the political courage to stand up and say: 'We've given you 1%, 2% and 2% over the next three years. We're going to bring in legislation so we don't have what happens in Metro Toronto, where school boards are asking for four-point-whatever per cent increases.'" They got 1% this year. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to realize property taxes will go up in Ontario as a direct result of this government. But they stand up fed-bashing and talk about the transfer payments.

I went to a school board meeting last night. In my riding the transfers are going to be a little less; we are a so-called have region. The trustees there were not bashing the provincial government, and it would have been very easy, because every time they stood up and talked about an issue in education, it related back to something this government had done. But these trustees got up and explained the situation as best they could. They didn't stand up like this Premier does and blame other levels of government. Lord knows our trustees would have a better chance, because they could blame the provincial government and the federal government. They didn't do that.

This mindless finger-pointing that has gone on by the Premier is nothing but the fact that this socialist government was so used to whining when they were outside of government that it doesn't know how to do anything but whine on the inside when it has the levers of power in Ontario. I say the people of this province would want and expect a lot more. I was proud of those trustees last night at this meeting who didn't engage in that. Property taxes are going to go up, as a direct result of the policies of this provincial government, in my area, Oakville and Burlington, and they didn't engage in that. They said, "We're going to work with it and we have hard choices to make." They didn't do the mindless finger-pointing that this Premier did, and it's about time he stops that.

Over the last little while we have had an occasion to review a lot of the way we're looking at things in this province. We've got a health care crisis. We've got 4,000 fewer hospital beds than we did in 1985. The waiting lists for surgeries are longer now in this province. Cuts are being made on an ad hoc basis out of fiscal necessity rather than on a long-term management program. Right now, as we're sitting here today, we're rationing health care because of the waiting lists.

We've got a situation where the education system now is deteriorating in the colleges and universities; no mention in there about colleges and universities in education. The standard of living of the next generation will be in direct

proportion to the skills and training we give it today, and their throne speech doesn't even talk about any direction of what they're going to do in education. We have a Minister of Education, and again also at the colleges and universities level, who has come in and offered no initiatives to Ontario on what is urgently needed to address a lot of the problems that are out there today.

We on this side have attempted to talk about some of these things and offer some of the solutions. We have listened and put together some of the programs. We've talked about some of the hard choices that need to be made.

You've got a different group over here, and I will just take a quick minute to talk about some of my colleagues. The member for Etobicoke West has a reputation for speaking his mind. I think if people would look at us, we certainly are not the stuffy old Conservatives of old in their three-piece pinstripe suits. Our hair is a little bit longer and we're a lot different.

We've got a group over here that is going to tell it like it is, because we are fed up and sick and tired with the type of leadership that used to happen in Ontario. This group over here is going to offer a lot of commonsense solutions. When the programs come in, as I said to the minister, whether they be labour legislation or some of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board things that we may disagree with, we are going to stand up and we're going to challenge this government on every issue, because I can tell you, a lot of you who are driven by ideology and have been confronted with reality now—the Premier stands up and talks about partnership, which is a lot of rhetoric, but all that means is that he spends and we pay, partner. That's the way he has dealt with his business community and all the other people who are out there.

Over the last little while we have attempted to offer some of the solutions and some of the new directions that we put out. I guess it says it all when we had close to 20,000 phone calls after the speech in January, of people crying out, wanting to look for some of the solutions. These people weren't Conservatives or politically aligned; these were people saying, "We're glad we have an opposition party that is standing up and saying some of the things."

I want to review some of the things we've talked about because as an opposition party we're prepared to make the tough choices. We're prepared to offer some of the opportunities. We encourage some of the Liberals to do that as well. They've got a new leader in now. Up till now they've been content to blame Brian Mulroney and blame the Premier and hope the people will forgive and forget, and I hope we will get away from that as they've said here today; I'm sure we will.

We talk in here about skills training. We talk about environmental technology. We talk about investment strategy. We talk about taxes. Some of the solutions we're putting together here are some of the solutions we are advocating. We talk about some of the things governments don't want to talk about. We talk about some of the things like the legislation. When you do that, you get calls from teachers and some of the people who are involved, saying, "No, we shouldn't be helped."



But here's a government that last year turned around and gave the nurses big increases, and today we turn around and lay them off and close hospital beds, and then it turns around and wants to have some credibility. I say to the members on the other side that the people of this province can't be fooled. They look at us as politicians a little cynically and a little sceptically as it is, and for you to turn around and champion the cause a year ago and then lay those same people off—let's have the political courage to make the hard choices and to say the things that need to be said.

1720

It was the same in the last period of time when they championed the anti-recession policy, the \$700 million they were going to pump into the economy. Then they turned around and had to cut at least that on an ad hoc basis because of the pressures they are facing with their deficits. Here we are and you didn't have the political courage to make some of the tough choices: when it comes to day care, \$130 million to drive the private sector out of that particular area; non-profit housing up 44% over the last little while. In 1985, 80% of the rental units used to be built by the private sector. Today less than 20% are built by the private sector.

What the Premier said in opposition is true: What you do is regulate them so they don't want to build, and then you take it over. Here is the Premier who said the deficit would go up no matter who was in power, and then non-profit housing goes up because they have driven out the private sector.

They've driven out the private sector in day care. With all the pressures out there, you would think you would know that the private sector, which does the job faster, better, cheaper and at no expense to the taxpayer, is being penalized, thwarted and shut out because it doesn't fit in with this government's trendy socialist ideology.

We are going to stand up for the private day care workers who come to my office en masse, as they did over that issue. We are going to stand up for the people of this province who want to invest and we are going to stand up for the people like these people who have written in to me offering some of the solutions that need to be done in Ontario. We get calls, as we often do at our riding offices, from people asking how much longer we have to put up with this government.

I go around and meet some of the people in the business community in my critic's responsibility. They are now talking about just surviving until this government leaves. They are saying they don't care who else comes in; nobody could be as bad as this government is today. That is where we have taken this province. It used to be the land of hope, opportunity and prosperity. Now people are saying, "Gee, I hope we can survive until we get rid of this government."

I've noticed a bit of a change here, as some of the members have. When this group came in, during the first year on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs they all jumped up and down with their ideology. A year later most of them sat silently.

We had the non-profit people in from Peel. The waiting list is 7,300. "We need 800 new rental units. That's what we're asking for. It will cost \$1,800, probably, per unit, and even if they get that," the chap who came in before the standing committee on finance and economic affairs said, "next year our waiting lists will be longer. I'll try to quote him directly: "We realize that non-profit housing wasn't meant to be the entire answer to all our housing. We need to have the private sector." So in the year when they came in, the first year, they said the private sector was going to be thwarted, penalized and shut out. Now we've got people talking about, "We need them, because even if we attempt to get rid of the waiting list for non-profit housing, if we build 800, we are still going to have waiting lists that are longer the next year." They've got to admit now that the policies aren't working.

When you look at the rent review agency now, they came in and they said, "We're going to have this program, and if people don't like the rents, we'll just be able to take it to this rent review board." It's backed up 6,000 cases. It's well over a year now to get in front of that board.

The people of this province have looked over the last little while, and if you took what we were spending in 1981 when we were in government and we had all these programs that worked, increased it for inflation and an increased population, today we would only be spending about \$31 billion. Instead, with all this massive investment, we have now spent \$53 billion a year, yet in all these areas—health care, roads, education and schools—we are worse off now than we were in the early 1980s. Doesn't this tell you that this program and this ideology of the socialists don't work? We are going to be offering some of these solutions that we've outlined here in New Directions.

I believe there are a couple of other people who want to get up and speak about this. It is unfortunate because I would've liked to have heard, and I think it would have been helpful for some of the members to hear, some of the things that are being said by the men and women across this province, in fact some of them young children, in criticism of this government's economic policies. This is a sad commentary.

In closing, we are going to be vigorous in our opposition to this government. Our collective challenge in this province goes far beyond tinkering and trimming just to keep the deficit at \$10 billion to \$14 billion this year alone. My party and my colleagues often feel we are alone in the Legislature with regard to a lot of the solutions people want out there, but we know we are joined in the hearts and minds of countless Ontarians who know that this province can do better. We on this side are committed to making it happen. We are going to make it happen.

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I'm the newest member of this House, but I'm certainly not the youngest and I've had many years of experience in some fields. I want to speak about why I was elected. I stayed particularly to hear the comments of the member for York Centre. I think his comments were particularly well made and I agree with them and I support him.

I feel the reason I was elected is that when I campaigned throughout the riding I heard the concerns of people. I had



to do that because there were many concerns. I heard from people who were unemployed, worried about their future and the fact that they would never have a job in the future, and from those who were employed, afraid they would lose their jobs, from businessmen who were going to lose their businesses, from industrial leaders who were going to lose their industries, and indeed from ordinary citizens concerned that they might lose their very houses. Why? Because of the tremendous increase in their taxes. Why have their taxes increased? Because of the downloading of the provincial and federal governments. They know that.

I grieve for the members of councils who have been elected and for the members of school boards who have been elected because they have a very difficult task ahead of them. They cannot continue to provide the same level of services and they cannot give a larger continued level without increasing taxes.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** To comment on the member for Oakville South's speech this afternoon is really a particular pleasure for me because I feel this member has addressed very well the concerns the Progressive Conservative caucus has with this Bob Rae Ontario socialist government and the content of its throne speech.

I have been here seven years. I have never heard, first of all, such a short speech, and I have never heard a speech that was so lacking in content.

The member for Oakville South probably could have addressed many more areas, but he was limited in time. When he talks about his concern for what this government is not doing, I want to say to this government, in addition to his comments, that I really wish the people in this cabinet who are making the decisions would simply look in the mirror. I wish they would realize the responsibility they have for the future of this province and that their policies and their decisions are driving this province down the drain.

We have a Minister of Health who simply cannot prioritize in terms of who should have what medical treatments and what drugs. So we have a two-tier health system: one for the rich, one for the poor. We have chaos in the Peel Board of Education because this Minister of Education will not now give transition funds that he is holding in his back hip pocket to help them out of their crisis. In the meantime, programs and staff are being cut unnecessarily.

1730

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** I want to thank the member for his participation. I think there maybe were a few spots he probably could have touched on and talked about a little longer. In the throne speech there was a lot of discussion around investing in infrastructure, new investment that is needed. There was also talk and discussion around regulatory problems that exist. We have seen, even in the statement earlier today, directions this government has taken to try to solve some of those problems.

In this province we produce \$280 billion in goods and services for this country every year, 40% of the whole country's output. That is something we need to take a look

at. This year the province of Ontario will spend about one fifth of that amount, nearly \$53 billion, on its budget.

Yes, there are some problems. We heard some discussion around the changes to the OLRA. For 15 years there have not been any changes. It is time for some changes. We need to make sure we have programs that are going to be equitable and get rid of this antagonism we have seen far too often. We need to get people sitting down and talking. We talk about cooperation and the need to take a look at some of the budgetary problems we have in this province right now.

We hear an awful lot of rhetoric from members opposite about how the Minister of Health should be telling the hospitals where they should be cutting. Frankly, I just can't believe these members would think that's the way it should be done. We've got district health councils out there that should offer some direction. We've got hospital boards out there. They should be taking a look at it and involving the workers who work providing those services. That is where we have to start. We've got to get that sort of involvement. From there, we can start looking at some of the budgetary problems we've got. The Minister of Health has pointed that direction. That is what we need to do.

**Mr Callahan:** I want to speak to the address of the member for Oakville South. He mentioned Peel Non-Profit Housing. Peel Non-Profit Housing, as I think can be attested by my colleague the member for Mississauga West, is one of the finest in the country. I hear the member for Oakville South saying that even if they get the money being promised they're still going to have tremendous waiting lists. I think if there is one thing all of us, if we reflect truly on it and do not do it on a partisan basis, know from our constituency offices, the most agonizing thing is when we get a call from a family that has no place to go and has to be put up in a fleabag hotel. They rely on the non-profit housing program.

In fact, after giving this money to Peel Non-Profit Housing—which is the finest in the province; there are not any around, I think, equally as good as Peel Non-Profit—what is happening to the people in other parts of this province? Are there families that are being sent out on to the street or out into fleabag hotels with their kids to get accommodations?

I have to say this. We stand around here all the time being partisan and we are not getting on with the business of looking after the families, the single-parent families you people espouse to be in favour of. We all are, but you're not doing it. Your throne speech is a piece of junk. It doesn't address those problems. You could trip over people in the streets of the city of Toronto and other areas in this province. Get on with it. There are families that deserve to have housing. When the member for Oakville South tells me that about Peel Non-Profit Housing, I have to cringe, because I have to feel that elsewhere in this province these people have no hope whatsoever.

**Mr Carr:** I wanted to add a bit of a comment on some of the replies. My friend from Scarborough commented, saying they are offering some solutions, the solutions we heard. Just like in education, in Peel they said: "You can't

get rid of this program. We've only given you 1, 2 and 2. You can't get rid of this program, and don't get rid of that program, and don't lay anybody off." Where do these people think the public is sitting? Do you think they're being fooled and conned by this, when you give the transfers to your agencies like that and you're talking to district health councils? It's all driven by money.

They can make whatever decisions they want, but if they don't have the money what they need to do is to be able to say and have the political courage to say, "Okay, we are going to, in the broader public sector, put a cap on it equal to the transfer payment," so that they don't go into the positions they are in now where they're going to have to lay off nurses and close more hospital beds. It will be a direct result of this Premier and this Treasurer in Ontario, because they didn't have the political courage to make the tough decisions and maybe get a few people angry at them. But in the broader public sector the fact of the matter is that if we don't, we will be shutting more hospital beds.

What we are saying is that they should be managed a lot better—not by the district health councils; by the Treasurer and the Premier of this province, who didn't have the political courage to make the tough decisions when they should have had the opportunity to do it. I can tell you this: In my area I've had a letter from the mayor of Oakville and I've had a letter from a director of education and from the regional chairmen all supporting me on this. If you don't want to listen to the opposition, listen to your transfer partners who are saying that's what you should be doing. Mayors, regional chairmen and directors of education from the Halton region are saying you should have the political courage to do it. I say to this government, "If you don't, the people are going to see right through it." They see through you now and we're going to remind them every day that a lot of the problems in this province are the direct result of the Premier and this disastrous government of Ontario.

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** It's very much a pleasure to be able to participate in this debate in support of the throne speech.

**Mrs Marland:** We've waited a long time for this speech.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Christel Haeck):** I'm sorry, but the member for Downsview at this point has definitely just started. He is entitled to say his piece. I do believe he is allowed the courtesy of continuing without the heckling that is going on at this time. I would suggest that we allow the member to continue in the same way that for the most part has been handled very quietly for the last hour.

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** On a point of order, Madam Speaker: I would suggest that if you're going to make those sorts of rulings then you would direct the government House leader not to heckle constantly.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** I will be watching all sides of the House, and in fact have been paying very close attention to you all. Thank you very much for the reminder.

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** On a point of order, Madam Speaker: Just very briefly, I think the point was

fairly well made that heckling takes place on both sides. I would simply ask you to look at that.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** I thank you. The member for Parkdale may sit down. I understood his point and the other member's point very well, but I believe all members have the right to continue the debate. Thank you for your opinion.

**Mrs Marland:** Tony, apologize for being the worst heckler in the House and then be quiet.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** Thank you, the member for Mississauga South, but your contribution is not exactly warranted. The member for Downsview.

**Mr Perruzza:** I am pleased to see that I incite such passion among the opposition benches. I have sat here and listened diligently to some of the speeches that have been delivered so eloquently in this House: the speech that was delivered to this House by the Lieutenant Governor, the Premier's throne speech, and the speeches that have been delivered by both opposition parties, the Liberals and Conservatives. They have spoken eloquently and well on the throne speech. I may not necessarily agree with their points of view, but I do agree with their right to express their views. They were duly elected to this House and they have that right. I hope they respect the government side's right to address this particular issue as well.

Quite some time ago, in one of my first statements to this House—

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** The member for Brampton South.

Excuse me, would the member please sit down. There is a point of order.

**Mr Callahan:** On a point of order, Madam Speaker: I hate to get involved when he's on a flight of fantasy, but the time clock is looking as though—is he now into a major speech on the throne speech or is he on a question?

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** The member for Brampton South may sit down. The member is entitled to make his speech on the throne speech.

1740

**Mr Callahan:** I thought he was on a point of fantasy.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** No, this is not the point of comment that he would like to insist. He's entitled to continue the debate.

Interjection.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** That is not a point of order. That is your strict opinion.

**Mr Perruzza:** I would encourage some of the opposition members to go into their desks and to pull out their manuals on the standing rules and figure out when they actually do have a point of order instead of standing up and interrupting members as they are about to impart some words of wisdom.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** What page? I've got it here.

**Mr Perruzza:** The member for Mississauga West just pulled it out and I see he's reading it diligently, so I will



contain my discourse to the subject matter at hand, and I'll try not to divert from that.

When I was first elected into this House one of my first statements here was a statement I read, and this was a year ago, and it referred to a first ministers' conference because, as you know, I represent a riding that has been essentially devastated by the downturn in the global economy and by the downturn in the economy here in Ontario. There have been a number of things that have impacted on my communities directly: primarily the introduction of the GST, high interest rates, the high level of the dollar and, I reiterate, the downturn in what is otherwise a very global situation.

The riding I represent has a very large contingent which is involved in the construction industry, in all phases of construction. I would just like to quote a figure in one particular sector of that industry. In talking to the bricklayers' union, one discovers that the unemployment rate in that sector has been between 40% and 55% for a little over a year now. This is an outrageous statistic, and I hope the opposition members pay attention to it. The people who are still working in some of these areas, and it's a very hard and cold kind of reality, are working four days for themselves and their families to put bread on their tables and one day for their employer. They work eight hours a day for themselves and their families; they work one hour at the end of the day for their employer. That is the kind of hard reality we're facing here in Ontario and I'm facing in my riding.

Again I say that roughly a year ago I issued a statement in here where I called on the Prime Minister to convene a first ministers' conference on the economy. Having been in government now a little over a year I realize that government moves rather slowly on some of these issues, but I'm glad to see that the Prime Minister of Canada has got the premiers of the provinces together and they're finally beginning to talk about one of the cruellest hoaxes that has been perpetrated on both the people of this province and the people in this country, and I'm referring to the joblessness and the high unemployment rates that continue to ravage both Canada and many other countries across the world.

I look to the throne speech as a document which outlines very clearly and builds on a solid record of employment; it continues to build on a solid record of creating jobs. Again I look at the ravages in my own particular riding and at some of the companies that because of free trade, because of the GST, because of the high level of the dollar—Allatt Paving is one example—ripped the technology out of this province, extracted the capital they garnered on the backs of working people in Ontario and decided to relocate south of the border.

What did it leave us? What did it leave behind? It left behind hundreds of people unemployed, hundreds of families which have had their breadwinners on the unemployment lines, and now they are about to roll over, and many of them have rolled over, on our welfare system.

I look at Braemore Convertibles, another company in my particular riding which has decided, for matters of expediency, matters of free trade, to relocate south of the border in Buffalo. They have been scaling back their oper-

ation as well, and they have done exactly the same thing. They are taking their capital, their technology, all the good things this province had to give them, and where are they bringing them to? They are bringing them to New York state, to Buffalo.

But the owner of this company isn't going to Buffalo, isn't going to New York state. No, he is going to locate and live in St Catharines. He's not going to give up his medicare system. He's not going to give up his education system. He's not going to give up our roads and our cities. No, he's not going to give up the fact that we have one of the best places to live in the world. No, he's going to continue to live there, but what he's going to do is take his capital and relocate it to Buffalo. I find this a deplorable act on behalf of many in our corporate sector.

When I look at this document, when I look at the throne speech, when I look at the heavy doses of investment in business—and it recognizes that small business is the single biggest employer in Ontario, employing over 70% of its people. When I look at the small business committee that has been established by the Premier of this province to look at the kinds of things we can do for small business and in assisting small business to become a thriving and active player in Ontario and to continue to employ people in this province. I applaud that, because small business has been one of the sectors former governments have never really paid attention to. They have traditionally looked to governments to protect them, to spur them along, to use their means to make them vibrant and to keep them active in the province, and what have governments traditionally done? They received the last jolt about two years ago with the GST. What did they receive? They received a side kick in the head, that is what they received, and they are all tumbling over.

When I listen to my Conservative friends expound and pontificate about their pro-business policies, they are not a pro-business party. They are certainly not a pro-small-business party. They are, though, a pro-big-business party, and big business, we all know, has always been traditionally listened to in this province. Quite frankly, I think our government listens to big business as well, because it has the clout and the might to be able to command attention, and we have many cases in point. In fact, as is outlined in the throne speech, we have come to the aid of big business as well, as you can see by the numerous examples in Delcan, Sandoz, Babcock and Wilcox, Magna, the Kapuskasing-Spruce Falls mill, and in my own riding, and I would like to speak about that just a bit longer, if I may, de Havilland, which is an excellent case in point.

I can't talk about the throne speech and not talk about job training and establishing in this province, at long last, a job training system that works. As anyone can see, and I have had an opportunity to work with this particular issue for some time now, if you begin to look at our job training system, you will quickly discover that it is very confusing, that it's very scattered. It's located throughout 10 ministries. There are about 49 programs, and very few of them are accessible.



1750

Quite frankly the former governments, the Tories, who talk about and pontificate about their 42-year reign where in those 42 years you had a health care system—and that's not true. All you need to do is to go to an elementary history book and you'll quickly find that health care came on quite late in their mandate. When they began to deal with some of the more complex issues in our society, they quickly plummeted. Quite frankly, I think this is where they're going to stay. They're around 24% or 25%. I don't suspect they will come back much further than that. They're going to be secluded as a motley crew of hecklers, and that's where I quite frankly think they're going to stay.

However, when you talk about job training and about OTAB, you quickly see that this is a major endeavour undertaken by this government to be able to ease the transition of people from workplace to workplace—people who are unemployed, people who are on welfare, first-time people into the workforce, younger kids. This is going to be something that is going to be able to deal effectively with those kinds of transitions. Quite frankly, I think it's about time. It's this government, the NDP government, that has taken on this initiative and moved it forward.

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** On a point of order, Madam Speaker: I listened quite attentively. Would you kindly remind the member that we're interested in real solutions and not in party politics?

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** I'm sorry, but that is not a point of order.

**Mr Perruzza:** Obviously the member, from somewhere in Metro, I think, hasn't read the briefing materials and the press releases and the announcement on the establishing of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. If he had, he would know that this is very substantial. It has very substantial content in terms of being able to deal with people who are unemployed, people who are on welfare and people who have never worked in their lives. It is very substantial in what it is intended to do, and I think it will go a long way.

Instead of promoting a destructive agenda, I quite frankly think that especially around this issue we should set aside our political differences, set aside our partisanship, and work together to ensure that the close to one million people currently on social assistance, the 500,000 or people who have been ravaged and are unemployed in the province, are returned to the workforce so that they and their families can continue to be vibrant, active, happy citizens of Ontario. I challenge both the Liberals and the Conservatives to work with us on this particular issue, because we really do need your help in order to make it work. The people of Ontario really need your help to make it work.

As a final point, I'd like to touch briefly on this theme of building on the record, a theme that started with our capital works strategy quite some time ago and is moving into a number of other areas I have outlined. I'd like to relate it briefly to my own particular community and my

own particular riding and talk a little bit about de Havilland, about the Spadina subway extension and so on.

Quite frankly, one of the biggest scares we have received in Downsview was the announcement of de Havilland's potential folding. Quite frankly, in very early discussions, knowing there was an NDP government, the employees of de Havilland and the unions representing the workers of de Havilland were optimistic that a deal could be hammered out whereby over 3,000 people would continue to have their jobs in Downsview. But it's not just the 3,000 people we continue to employ in de Havilland. For every job we save in de Havilland, we continue to retain four jobs in and around the service industries that feed into de Havilland.

As you know, Madam Speaker, this particular area of enterprise employs roughly 64,000 people right across Canada. Quite frankly, if de Havilland had been one of those companies that would have been permitted to fold, we might have seen a very serious erosion in those people employed in that sector, in that industry right across the country.

It scared me to death when I attended a committee meeting and the former Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology for the Liberal Party happened to be at that committee. The issue of de Havilland arose—this was before the deals had been done—and he talked about the uncompetitiveness. We all knew that the federal government wasn't committed to de Havilland until the final days, the 11th hour as they say, but it scared me to death when the former provincial Liberal Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology stated, "Well, if it's not going to be profitable in the short term"—forgetting about the long term, forgetting about some of the other peripheral issues and some of the other people who continue to be employed in this particular industry—"de Havilland should be allowed to fold, allowed to cave in, sink down the drain." That is 3,000 jobs in de Havilland, 12,000 in and around de Havilland that feed into it and God knows how many others right across the country that also feed into that particular industry.

That made me quiver. As a new member of this Legislature, that kind of rhetoric made me quiver because of what it would have done to the lives of those families. The ravages it would have wreaked on them would have been unmentionable. I'm glad to see that this party and this government came to the rescue of that particular enterprise, and I suspect it will be a very vibrant, active and profitable enterprise in this province.

The Spadina subway line: again, another major investment both in jobs and in people continues to build on the record, another \$185 million on top of the \$600 million for de Havilland, and we're going to extend the Spadina subway line from Wilson station to Sheppard.

I'm glad to see that an announcement was made in this House about streamlining the land use approval process. What we need now is not just the jobs that the subway is going to bring, but a comprehensive land use policy along that line which creates more jobs and investment. I'm glad to see that our Minister of Municipal Affairs today announced a process whereby those jobs and approval processes are not



going to be put on the back burner, but are going to be forefront and central to this policy. This continues to build on the record to create jobs and get Ontarians back to work, and I'm glad to see that.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** Could I ask the member for Downsview to take his seat. He will be allowed to continue his comments next week. We have a business statement from the government House leader.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** I would like to report on the House schedule for next week. On Monday April 13, Tuesday April 14 and Wednesday April 15, we'll deal with the throne speech, with the vote scheduled for Wednesday. On Thursday, April 16, we'll have committee of the whole consideration of Bill 143, An Act respecting the Management of Waste in the Greater Toronto Area and to amend the Environmental Protection Act.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Christel Haeck):** It is now approaching 6 of the clock. Pursuant to standing order 33, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made.

1800

#### VEHICLE LICENSING OFFICES

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Christel Haeck):** The member for York Mills has given notice that he is dissatisfied with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Transportation concerning vehicle and drivers' licence offices. The member has up to five minutes to debate the matter and the minister or parliamentary assistant may reply for up to five minutes.

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** The minister's not here.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms Haeck):** Yes, I see that. Perhaps the member for York Mills will start the debate.

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I have repeatedly asked questions about this issue, and the issue is that on October 21 and November 25 of last year I asked in this House for assurances that the licence-issuing bureaus would not be taken over by the government. I received assurances from the minister and the minister said at that time, "The system is working well and we have no intention of changing it."

This is a minister who is very well known for being very eloquent and very photogenic, but I notice he's not here to answer the question. So I've taken the liberty of having a photograph of him put on his desk in his absence, which I'll address my comments to, and I do hope I get a reasonable answer from the parliamentary assistant.

The people who operate these offices have leases coming up periodically, and these leases have to be renewed. If the people who operate the offices renewed in their own name, which is the only way the ministry allows them to operate, then they would be held accountable for the five- or 10-year lease. After the assurances of the minister, several of them went out and renewed their leases, and in fact in one case somebody bought the premises. Now we have

found that there is a pilot project funded by the ministry to establish self-service kiosks, and I ask the minister what his commitment of the day is, because based upon his previous commitment, as I said, leases were signed.

It is unacceptable that at a time of record unemployment the government is going to spend, by some estimates, in the region of \$50,000 per machine. On top of that \$50,000 there are going to be the credit card charges which will be involved, and all the attendant expenses are going to add up to considerably more than the 3% the operators of these offices now get. The 3%, I may say, covers the rent, the utilities cost, the staff and the profit for the operator of these offices. I dare say there is not one single ministry or agency of government that operates so efficiently in terms of administrative cost. That's an all-in 3%.

These people have a right to be told the truth, they have a right to be told whether they have a future and they have a right to be told what is going to happen to their offices if they renew leases. Every time I ask a question, I get answers like—and I've had this more than once: "The system is working well. We have no intention of changing it." If that is not an unequivocal answer from a minister, I don't know what is. Notwithstanding that, the ministry is going out and funding this.

We have in Ontario 293 such offices, employing something like 1,500 workers. They want to know whether they have a job, and the people who operate the offices want to know whether they should go into leases. There is a responsibility of the minister to give a very clear answer, and so far, I am sorry, the credibility of the government is very poor, based upon the previous answers.

Notwithstanding when the minister made those statements in the House, we note that on January 20, Management Board approved the purchase of these machines. Surely to God, they already had this in the planning at the time the minister was saying they had no intention of changing it. How can business trust this government when these are the kinds of statements its ministers are making? The Premier talks about cooperation with private business. This is not cooperation; this is hoodwinking people, and we want a clear answer. There are many people watching tonight who operate and work in these offices who are waiting for an answer, and we insist that we have a clear answer tonight.

**Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich):** I'm a little bit excited. You know I share common concerns with you on this particular issue, being parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Transportation. I also have a new licence office which has just opened in the last three or four months in my constituency plaza, where we have done the ribbon-cutting, so it's very near and dear to us.

As the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Transportation, I will endeavour to respond to the question raised by the member for York Mills. I know he has raised the same one on a number of occasions in this House.

I'm well aware of the valuable service provided by licence issuers located in more than 280 offices right across this province. They have been providing this service for many years.

As the Ontario economy restructures, we as a government must continually examine and re-examine the way we deliver this service. This is a responsibility we take very seriously. The Minister of Transportation is now in the process of examining the way we deliver services to the Ontario motorist. This is why we must draw upon the experience and expertise of the licence issuers to determine how to deliver this service in the most efficient way we can.

On January 17, 1992, the Minister of Transportation met with representatives of the association to discuss methods of improving the service delivery. The self-service kiosk pilot project was discussed and is proceeding in selected areas right across this province. The project will commence in 1992 and operate for about six months' time. It is modelled after automated banking machines and will deliver selected government services.

The project has the potential to enhance the issuers' role as service providers. Unfortunately, the issuers declined our invitation to participate in a discussion of the opportunities inherent in this new technology.

Business as usual does not mean we stop improving the services we provide to the taxpayers of the province. Our products and services must respond in order to meet the needs of our rapidly changing society. The important service the licence issuers provide will change in the future as it has changed in the past. This is a principle successful service providers have to recognize. This has to be the order of the day.

I am disappointed that the association refuses to partake in discussions, because the minister knows, having met with it, that we need to have its input. We need the benefit of their years of experience in dealing at first hand with the public, and their help as service providers in evaluating the pilot project. I know they share with us this common objective in providing the best possible service to Ontario's motorists.

I know the honourable member shares those same goals. I would ask him to use his good offices to persuade the licence issuers to partake in this project so we can continue with our talks.

The House adjourned at 1808.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OSTJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affaires/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessinger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale



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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 13 April 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le lundi 13 avril 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





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## **Table des matières**

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste alphabétique de députés de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 13 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

**Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland):** Two weeks ago I had an opportunity to be at what may have been the largest gathering of concerned citizens ever to assemble under one roof in Northumberland county. The focus of their concern was the preservation, protection and conservation of fish and wildlife in this province.

Their frustration was based on the NDP government's inability and unwillingness to listen to or represent their concerns. In fact, an invitation to this gathering was left unanswered by the government and so there was no government representative in attendance.

The Bob Rae government established an interim enforcement policy on the aboriginals' right to hunt and fish for food, and once again failed to involve all the stakeholders in decisions which directly affect them. By not having all parties at the table, the NDP government has badly damaged the aboriginal people's position and has certainly upset and disaffected a large number of Ontarians.

The root of this problem goes right back to the Premier's decision to appoint the member for Algoma not only Minister of Natural Resources, but minister responsible for native affairs. Surely the Premier must have seen the inherent problem this appointment would have. It has left many in this province asking, "Who is representing non-natives at these talks?"

A strong conclusion of the meeting, and one I concur with, was that the Premier should relieve the member for Algoma of one of these ministerial responsibilities at the earliest opportunity, so that all sides can be represented fairly and equally. Act now, Premier.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I'm disappointed to report yet another example of this government's lack of commitment to the environmental assessment process.

First we had the Minister of the Environment literally throw out the process on the dump in her panic to resolve the Metro garbage crisis which she helped cause. Now we have the Minister of Transportation telling Newcastle councillor Larry Hannah that despite opposition to the government's preferred route, "The 407 is going through." This is before the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has approved the route and before the environmental assessment process.

Minister, can we have an environmental process that is not prejudged? If you have no intention of listening to the public's concerns, why waste taxpayers' time and money? Can't we once and for all have a government that is honest and open with the people—not qualities for which this government is renowned.

This arrogance must be challenged. Important environmental considerations must be fully examined. This minister's disrespect for his own government's public consultation process is unacceptable. I call on the minister to apologize now to the people of Newcastle and to announce that he is not prejudging the outcome of the environmental assessment process.

### NATIONAL UNITY

**Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings):** Clearly the single most important factor in bringing Canada, and indeed Ontario, out of the present recession and on the way to recovery is national unity. The international investment community is waiting patiently for Canadians to resolve this issue. It would therefore be counterproductive, especially at this time, to promote hatred against an identifiable segment of our society in the province of Ontario. Absolutely, this should never happen at any time.

Certainly it is within one's right to complain to or petition the government about perceived unnecessary spending. This is understandable, as everyone does not have the same priorities when it comes to government programs. However, to attach a condition to a petition so that it changes its intent—that is, the perception to promote hatred—is deplorable.

For a member of this assembly to endorse such a petition is unthinkable. To initiate and circulate such a petition is beyond reason. I am of course speaking about the "bilingual signs" petitions being circulated around the province and read in the Legislature.

I question why any member of the Legislature Assembly would do such a thing. To use such a plot to discredit the government and/or to garner personal political support and obvious notoriety without any real understanding of the consequences suggests incompetence.

I sincerely hope that the perceived promotion of hatred that is evident in these petitions is accidental and not planned. We do not need to encourage any real or perceived divisions among the people of Ontario, or Canada for that matter. What we do need is to be united and to cooperate and work together in order to turn this economy around.

### VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** Later today I will be reintroducing a bill which the NDP chose to allow to die on the order paper. The bill prohibits persons from walking or running on highways or railway tracks or driving vehicles on highways while wearing headphones.

I introduced it last November following tragic deaths in Ottawa-Carleton and elsewhere in Ontario. The minister said that he would seriously consider the legislation. To date he has done nothing. In the meantime we have witnessed yet another senseless death in Brampton, where a



30-year-old man was killed in February walking on a railway line while wearing portable headphones.

Recently released data show that close to 100 pedestrians were struck by trains in 1991, 55 of which resulted in death.

The time has come to pass a new law in the interests of public safety. I again urge the government to send this bill to committee at the earliest opportunity.

This governments claims to be open and reform-minded, yet it continues to withhold legislative tools from the average government or opposition backbencher. This issue needs to be debated in the Legislature. Enforceability of such a law is not the issue, because the very existence of such a law—as with seat belts—will build public awareness and save lives.

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#### JUNIOR HOCKEY

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** Now that the National Hockey League strike has ended, I rise to inform the House of another threat to hockey in Ontario.

The Oakville Blades and numerous other junior hockey teams are having their existence threatened by this government and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Provincial governments, through their lottery division, license hockey teams to conduct bingos. In the words of Brent Ladds, president of the Ontario Hockey Association:

"The position of the Ontario government is that this practice should be discontinued.

"The inability of our hockey clubs to obtain licenses will be devastating. The volunteers who operate and raise funds for our hockey clubs are not looking for handouts. They seek only to raise funds to finance their teams.

"The Ontario Hockey Association is respectfully requesting that this government initiate whatever changes and policies are necessary to render our teams eligible for these licences and to accommodate our teams."

It would appear that the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations will not be content until she has destroyed junior hockey in Ontario. I call on the minister to intervene and to solve the problem, or the demise of junior hockey will be added to the long list of initiatives by this government which are destroying our province. As a former hockey player, I say that would be a travesty.

#### OPEN HOMES CANADA

**Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex):** In the last few days we have had some positive signals from national, provincial, territorial and native leaders regarding our determination that Canada emerge from our current constitutional discussions stronger and united in our commitment to this nation.

I want today to inform the House of a search for that renewal that comes from other leaders in our communities. Last February, a group of London councillors that includes councillor Anne Marie DiCicco and controller Dianne Haskett proposed a project called Open Homes Canada. Open Homes Canada is a Canada-wide exchange to foster unity and goodwill. Londoners wish to open their homes to

receive fellow Canadians for a four-day visit on the civic holiday weekend from July 31 to August 3, 1992. In return, they hope to visit at the homes of their guests elsewhere in Canada in the year 1992.

I would like to offer my congratulations to communities with such innovative leaders and support for the success of this program. I would also encourage other communities to become involved in this tangible and very significant extension of building friendships among Canadians.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** I rise on a matter that is increasingly becoming a crisis situation, which is the way in which the education system is being handled by this government, and specifically the fact that by the end of this week, the students at the secondary level in the Ottawa Board of Education will have been out of classes for four weeks. What we see now is that the mediator has said the talks are off and that he is making a report today to the Education Relations Commission.

The Minister of Education must now exercise his responsibilities if he believes, as he says he does, in the collective bargaining system. If he wants to see that system continue, he must act now in bringing the parties back to the table to ensure that there is a solution and that those young people will be back in the classroom.

We have a situation as well in the Carleton board and there are others throughout the province. If this government refuses to show real leadership and say what it means in terms of teachers' settlements and to provide real and meaningful direction, we are going to be faced with tremendous problems.

I say to the minister today that it is imperative that he act now and that he bring those parties together. If they have to negotiate for 24 hours over the next several days, that is the approach that must be taken. These strikes must end. The minister must play a role. He cannot sit back, as he has up to this point, and pretend it doesn't matter. It matters, and it matters deeply.

#### DALE MARTIN

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** Today I would like to make it quite clear to the Minister of Municipal Affairs that although I agree that the present OMB appeal process is badly in need of streamlining, I do not feel his plan announced last week will do much to help the situation.

The minister has appointed Dale Martin, a former NDP Toronto city councillor, to "facilitate certain projects." Apart from the fact that Mr Martin has probably never set foot in rural Ontario and certainly will not understand its distinct problems, he has a history of obstructing, not assisting, the work of the OMB.

Therefore, as he obviously has no qualifications for this position, what sort of appointment was this if not one of blatant patronage, something the NDP has always sanctimoniously been against? Exactly what sort of work will Mr Martin do for his \$110,000 a year? Who decides what sort of projects should be fast-tracked and why? How is this fair to those who have been patiently awaiting their

turn? How is the minister going to deal with those whose projects are not being facilitated?

And what of John Sewell? Mr Sewell, a former friend and colleague of Mr Martin, is presently travelling the province, supposedly rewriting the book on planning in Ontario. Will they run into each other? Why are we paying them both? The minister must answer several questions before this even newer level of bureaucracy can be justified.

#### WINDSOR CENTENNIAL

**Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich):** I'd like to bring to the attention of all members of this Legislature today a very important celebration now occurring in the city of Windsor. The year 1992 is Windsor's 100th anniversary as a city. I'd like to share this special occasion in Windsor's history with you, Mr Speaker, members of this Legislative Assembly and of course all the citizens of Windsor and the province of Ontario.

We began with an outdoor New Year's Eve celebration which attracted well over 5,000 people. This is how we as Windsorites rang in 1992. On May 11 our city will highlight its heritage. I'm pleased to say that during that week—it'll be called Century Week—the Governor General of Canada will be in attendance.

Our other events during the week will be Education Celebration '92, the MacKenzie Hall Arts Festival and the Century Business Awards for companies that have been in Windsor for 100 years. The festivities will continue with the International Freedom Festival. Together the 1992 centennial celebration committee will join forces with the Freedom Fest and will deliver one of Canada's largest Canada Day parades which is of course coupled with a fireworks display on the Detroit River. Each year, this event attracts well over 500,000 people. As well, Windsor will help to celebrate an even bigger birthday, Canada's 125th birthday on July 1.

Let me say thank you to Pamela Brajak, coordinators' assistant for the 1992 centennial committee, for all this information today. As well, there are brochures available to all the members and to you, Mr Speaker. I urge you to attend the biggest party of all, Windsor's 100th birthday celebration. I'd like to say to all that we hope you join the party.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development):** It gives me great pleasure to announce today details of transitional assistance funding to begin restructuring the post-secondary education sector.

When I announced transfer payments to the broader public sector of 1%, 2% and 2% last January, we were speaking to the new fiscal reality facing our province. As Minister of Colleges and Universities, I asked all members of the post-secondary sector, students, faculty, support staff, presidents and administration, to help Ontario rise to the challenge of the recession in this sector of our common life.

I asked them to work with me and my ministry and to look at how, in the context of a recession, we can best offer accessible, high-quality education in Ontario that will support our province's social and economic needs. To do this, short-term and long-term restructuring task forces were struck for both the college and the university sectors. Short-term restructuring proposals whose implementation required transitional assistance had to be submitted by February 28, only weeks after the Treasurer's transfer announcement.

I am pleased to be able to report that, despite the short notice we were able to give, there was tremendous cooperation from our post-secondary partners. I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to those who came through for us and worked so hard on these proposals.

Today I want to announce that colleges and universities will be receiving \$39.4 million of the \$160 million of transitional assistance available to the broader public sector. Colleges will receive \$17.4 million of those dollars and universities \$22 million.

I have made it clear to the colleges and universities that transitional assistance funding is not in any way a short-term response to limited resources. It's an investment in change. Transitional assistance is the beginning of a process of longer-term restructuring that will result in the reshaping of post-secondary education, not just in response to the economic restraints of a recession, but in order to better respond to the educational needs of all Ontarians, students, workers and businesses, as we move into the 21st century.

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I have also underlined the absolute need for collaboration among stakeholders both in the short term and in the long term.

The measures we are taking relate to academic restructuring, human resource planning and long-term efficiencies or streamlining.

Academic restructuring will include alternative forms of program delivery like electronic classrooms that link students in remote communities with post-secondary institutions and computer-based learning that allows students to learn at their own pace. Initiatives like these help reduce the strain on capital spending and salaries while at the same time expanding access to post-secondary education.

Other measures will reduce duplication of courses and make it easier for students to move from one institution to another and improve cooperation between institutions.

On the level of human resources, we will be funding initiatives around early retirement and staff training and development. What we are doing will contribute to long-term restructuring by offering the greater flexibility institutions require to respond to Ontario's educational needs and to give staff opportunities for redeployment within or outside the post-secondary sector.

Our funding is also aimed at more efficient long-term use of equipment, streamlining of administrative procedures and structures and encouraging collaborative ventures between institutions to economize on business operations and services.



I want to reiterate that we have been working under severe time constraints. That is why the short-term task force on restructuring has recommended going back to the institutions concerned in order to develop more detailed costing of the projects before we announce the precise sums to be awarded to individual institutions. I shall be informing the institutions concerned in this second phase of evaluation by letter later today.

I know the people of Ontario and the other partners in the broader public sector will be encouraged, as I am, by the response of our universities and colleges to the call for cooperation and creative thinking in the face of this recession. The \$39 million I am announcing here today is an investment in the people in our colleges and our universities, an investment in the long-term restructuring of Ontario's post-secondary sector. It is an investment in the future of our province.

## RESPONSES

### TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** I am sorry to say it does not give me great pleasure to respond to this particular statement by the minister, even though we were certainly awaiting some good news. The minister has just said he is giving the universities \$22 million. Last week, I got a press release from the Council of Ontario Universities. They said in complaint that they were just shortchanged \$8 million out of pay equity funding that was promised to the universities.

You take the \$8 million of the \$22 million and you are left with \$14 million. Last October, I would like to remind the minister, the Treasurer took \$9.2 million out of the operating budgets of the universities. If you take that \$9.2 million off the \$14 million, what's left is about \$5 million, and I'm not even talking about the historically low transfer increases that were announced not too long ago by the Treasurer. Mr Minister, I really think what you are doing is that you're giving with one hand, but with the other one you're taking it back.

The universities have certainly complained for long now. I think they have a very good cause, even in these tough economic times, to complain about the treatment they're receiving from your government. In fact, your treatment is not only fiscally very poor and very unsatisfactory towards the universities, but they have written to you and they have written to the Premier several times asking for meetings, and each time the Premier in particular has refused to meet with them.

I'm quoting here a letter here from Dr George, the president of the Council of Ontario Universities, where he says, "May I remind you that, on many previous occasions, we offered to sit down with government to explore alternatives" to the current difficult economic circumstances. They appreciate it and they know that, but you even refused to meet with them.

The minister is making announcements about a long-term restructuring of the universities, and frankly I support the ideas he's putting forward. I think the principles he's enunciating in terms of finding new and innovative ways to deliver education in this province and in the universities

sector are good ones, and I acknowledge that. However, when I meet the representatives of the university communities, students, administrators, faculty, they tell me the long-term restructuring committee is hardly off the ground.

These are all great ideas, good concepts, but—I just received this newspaper of the University of Western Ontario today which I will quote from, and it applies to your statement today, "This is just another example of the Ontario government saying one thing while doing something quite different." This is the quote from the university provost at Western Ontario.

With his long-term restructuring, the minister is putting forward some beautiful ideas, but when it comes to concrete actions, they are missing. I am looking forward, Mr Minister, to see that a long-term restructuring committee is established and is working at the earliest opportunity and that you come in with precise announcements as to what your plans are.

You are saying here that even your short-term task force has to go back to the universities and work more with the universities to determine how the \$5 million that's left should be spent. How often will you have to go back to the universities in terms of the long-term restructuring you have in mind?

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** Mr Speaker, what this suggests is going to happen in Ontario as well is that we are going to see another increase in tuition fees. You will recall, having been on the campaign trail, as we all were, the promise made that tuition fees would be abolished by an NDP government in Ontario. I know some of those in the Canadian union of students who have been supporters of the New Democratic Party are bitterly disappointed by the fact that not only have tuition fees increased, but the original promise to abolish tuition fees in the Utopian Ontario is gone as well.

We see this stopgap measure being put forward, but I think it really points to the fact that the students can await yet more tuition fee increases from an NDP government.

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** It's with interest that I respond to the announcement by the Minister of Colleges and Universities today. I think we should all understand that the colleges and universities are probably facing the greatest challenges they have ever faced in the history of the province of Ontario. We went through many years of building and dreams and hopes, and these days, as we talk about training and international competitiveness, the colleges and the universities are telling us that the system is on the verge of collapse.

Today we heard the minister, who within his own cabinet has probably been somewhat successful in coming up with \$39.4 million out of \$160 million in transition grants. Mr Minister, the colleges and universities and the students across this province will not look at that as real money to be added to a base budget but as something very much less than that. If we take a look at January 21, 1992, when you met with representatives of the universities, they certainly did expect some transition fund money, but on that very



day they also realized they were looking at only 1% in transfer payments.

They were very much concerned about the \$13 million that was removed last October from the operating base of both the colleges and universities for 1991-92. More recent, and I discussed this with you, they feel there is some \$8 million missing to implement the pay equity priorities of this government. No matter which way you look at a total of \$39.4 million, the universities getting \$22 million and the colleges \$17.4 million, in their eyes this is probably something like \$18.4 million in real dollars at the very most.

In the pre-budget submission of the Council of Ontario Universities where the council was looking at the 1% transfer payments, it reminded this government and the elected representatives across this province that an increase in operating grants of 1% meant a shortfall of \$117 million in grant income. If you take a look at restructuring, we're restructuring \$117 million less, and \$18.4 million doesn't begin to talk about what we had to work with in the last fiscal year.

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Mr Minister, you should also know the implications as presented by the Council of Ontario Universities in the pre-budget submission for reductions in full-time enrolment of students, and this is one I feel most concerned about. They are looking at some 15,000 students who will be denied access to our universities this coming school term. They also advised us of reductions in full-time faculty, with the 1% transfer payments, of some 896 faculty members, and in full-time equivalent staffing we're looking at over 1,125 individuals. We are looking at fewer people teaching in our universities, advising and guiding our students. They're actually the people who will make a difference when it comes to the competitive environment we hope to be part of.

The problems remain that there won't be money for capital spending, we will see even larger class sizes, the library acquisitions and the books the students told us they needed will not be a reality and, their great concern, the use of part-time faculty will indeed increase. I can only say that if we're looking at major restructuring of the universities through this Band-Aid approach, I would hope the minister would take a very firm stand within the cabinet of his government and with the Premier himself and say that we need to look at what our universities are supposed to be doing, how important they are to Ontario and whether or not they do indeed deserve a greater part of the provincial pie.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** We had a statement from the minister today that was superb in doubletalk and political doublespeak. Not once did he mention the term "layoff." Not once did he mention the term "job loss." Not once did he mention the term "no more accessibility." This government is laying off 1,000 people with this announcement. Accessibility for students is down by 15,000. This is the government that once said, as the member for St Catharines suggested, that it would abolish tuition fees. That has clearly changed; they are simply abolishing schools.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

**Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services and minister responsible for women's issues):** I believe we have all-party consent for a statement in the House about the 75th anniversary of the vote.

I rise today as the minister responsible for women's issues. This past weekend the Committee for '94 brought women from across Ontario to Ryerson Polytechnical Institute to teach them how to get elected. Also this past weekend, but 75 years ago, women in Ontario won the vote. If the timing of these two events is unrelated, their significance is not.

Agitation for votes for women became organized in Ontario in 1876 when Dr Emily Howard Stowe formed something of a women's political underground. While pushing for suffrage, she formed a group whose members camouflaged their organization by calling it the Toronto Women's Literary Club. These women knew their real agenda, if divulged, would be vigorously opposed, and they were right. From 1885 to 1893 this Ontario Legislature saw no fewer than nine private bills to give women the vote; none passed.

However, over the years women's suffrage was coming of age in other provinces, England and many American states. By early 1916 Manitoba had extended the franchise; Alberta and Saskatchewan soon followed. For Ontario the writing was on the wall. With Canada at war, Ottawa found itself having to give women, at least those related to servicemen, a place at the federal polling booth in order to galvanize support for conscription across the nation. Bowing to these pressures from other jurisdictions, the Ontario government introduced amendments to the Ontario Elections Act and the Ontario Franchise Act in 1917. The legislation passed unanimously on second reading and was declared law a month later.

Casting our ballots opened the door to women's throwing our hats into the political ring. Just weeks after the Ontario franchise decision, Alberta elected the first two women ever to hold office in Parliament within the British Empire. Lieutenant Roberta MacAdams was a nurse who had served in the war. Louise McKinney was a teacher and organizer of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, a vocal lobby group dedicated to banning the free flow of alcohol.

As the move towards full political equality continued, McKinney, joining four other Alberta women, acted to petition Canada's highest court to extend those rights. Her mission this time: to have the judicial committee of the Privy Council strike down the rule, stubbornly upheld by Ottawa, that under British common law, "Women are persons in matters of pain and penalties, but not in matters of rights and privileges." The petition of the famous five made history. The verdict delivered after five years of struggle that women are in fact persons under Canada's Constitution also made women eligible to sit in the Senate. That was in 1929.

This is 1992, and the facts today emphasize that although Canadian women have had the right to vote and to hold office, we are still far from being equitably represented in governments. For example, fewer than one in



five of the 1,600 candidates fielded during the last federal election were women. The House of Commons contains 295 seats; women occupy only 40 of them.

In the provinces and territories, women's representation varies from barely 5% in Newfoundland to 20%-plus in Prince Edward Island and the Yukon, and in nine of the 12 major Canadian cities 25% or more of council members are women. Our slightly better showing municipally may be because the costs of local campaigns are lower than those of provincial and federal bids and that less travel means more time and energy for women who are expected to maintain the major share of family responsibilities.

Once in office, can women look forward to positions of power? Around the world, no. In 93 countries not a single woman is part of the cabinet. In Canada the answer is a little different. A greater fraction of women than men in provincial governments become ministers. But to leave it at that would be grossly misleading. The raw number of women in these governments is still embarrassingly small.

So who can forget the public curiosity, surprise and even shock when the Premier, in one of his first acts as Premier, appointed 11 women to his 26-member cabinet? Almost two years later, 10 women continue to serve in cabinet, overseeing more than half of the provincial budget and sitting on major cabinet committees, if not chairing them.

In British Columbia too women comprise nearly 40% of the cabinet, together managing over 80% of the budget and holding such high-profile positions as Deputy Premier, House Speaker and caucus chair.

Above all, in both provinces the ministers responsible for women's issues serve on provincial purse-holding boards. I sit on both the Management Board of Cabinet and the treasury board, while Penny Priddy is vice-chair of the BC government's treasury board.

My point is that in progressive pockets of the country women are well positioned to bring about systemic change. Here our votes count. But systemic change has to include getting rid of competition, confrontation and sheer nastiness in parliamentary politicking because the adversarial approach assumes that moral problems lend themselves to a quick fix. They don't.

Carol Gilligan, a professor from Harvard, argues that men view moral problems as arising from competing rights. That's why the cut and thrust of question period, committee hearings and other stages for legislative on-upmanship comes naturally to them.

Women, on the other hand, view moral problems as arising from competing obligations. That's why we're less interested in winning or losing than in finding a middle ground. Never mind the fact that what I call middle-ground management could prevent legislatures from degenerating into insult factories and ridicule mills. It could also promote agendas that empower everyday people with everyday problems. After all, education and training, discrimination on the job and in pay, child care and elder care, and violence in the home as well as on the streets are universal concerns. These issues need frank discussion, not pompous posturing. They don't end when question period does.

Rest assured that women are no longer organizing literary clubs to grope towards political reform. We're blazing the trail in the public arena. We're holding nomination schools that teach us how to canvass, how to fund-raise, how to team-build and how to win. We're calling loudly and often for caps on campaign spending to ensure that those who are financially disadvantaged are not politically disadvantaged. We're promoting affirmative action in our parties. We're setting up trusts for women candidates. We're challenging media myths about who the qualified candidate is. We're reminding one another that you don't have to be a deal-cutting lawyer to be Prime Minister; that negotiating every day with our partners, our children, our children's educators, our bosses, our unions and even our grocers is qualification in itself.

We're giving diverse women more than our encouragement, time or money; we're encouraging them to exercise the very vote we won 75 years ago today.

To make the policy, it seems women have to make history over and over again. I only hope that within my lifetime this chamber will celebrate another historic first: an Ontario Legislature composed of as many women as men.

1410

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** It gives me particular pleasure to be able to join in a recognition and a celebration of the achievement of April 12, 1917. I think for us to fully appreciate that achievement it's important that we go back to the Canada that was at the turn of the century. It was a Canada, as we all well know, which had a Dominion Elections Act that stated that no woman, idiot, lunatic or criminal shall vote. It was certainly a Canada in which no woman could be elected in federal or provincial offices in government.

As the minister has noted, it was in the prairie provinces that women first won the right to vote, but we had early pioneering efforts in Ontario as well. I think it is important to point to the work that was done by the Toronto Women's Literary Club, which was established by Dr Emily Stowe in 1876. The name was deceiving because the real purpose of that club was to teach women their rights. Dr Stowe herself had been denied the right to attend a Canadian medical school and had been forced to go to the United States to receive training. It was under Dr Stowe's leadership that the club worked not only to win the vote but to establish a medical college for women in Ontario.

In 1915 a new Liberal government came to power in Manitoba with the promise that women in that province would be given the right to vote. Two years to the day after Nellie McClung and her army of women marched on the Manitoba Legislature, women in Manitoba did in fact become the first women in Canada to gain the right to vote. It seems incredible that it was not until 1929 that under the law women actually became persons.

There are some echoes of the past yet today as I read the reservations that a former Premier of Manitoba had about the idea of women having the right to vote. He suggested that nice women would not want the vote. It reminded me



a little of the questions I was asked during the leadership campaign about whether I was too nice to lead a political party. You wonder perhaps how much progress we've really made at times.

Women have, as would only be expected, made significant contributions to the political and democratic processes during the 75 years since being enfranchised. That same sense of commitment that kept the suffrage movement so strong has made women powerful advocates of equal opportunity in all areas. Women continue to raise issues of concern to people throughout our society, demanding that issues that have sometimes been too long neglected become the focus for more urgent action.

Women have become involved in the political process at all levels, from the riding level to elected office to political leadership. There has been progress, but it is not enough. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of women's right to vote, we must recognize that women, who represent 57% of the population, still make up only about 17% of municipal councils and about 14% to 21% of the Legislatures and Parliament of this country. Women in Ontario won the right to vote 75 years ago. We have surely demonstrated our capacity to contribute. We must now ensure that the opportunity to participate is truly equal.

I continue to believe that women will have gained true equality in the political process only when we participate in such numbers that it is only considered natural that we have that participation.

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** It gives me great pleasure to rise in the House today as we celebrate and look back in history to those who went before us. The two significant occasions we're celebrating today are the 75th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in Ontario and the 75th anniversary of Louise McKinney of Alberta, the first female to be elected in the British Empire, so it is a very special day.

The formal beginnings of the suffrage movement were in the late 1800s, when life was very different in Ontario and Canada and for women around the world. A number of activists established the Canadian Woman Suffrage Association and a series of similarly directed organizations. Together these organizations advocated justice for women.

Although many provinces permitted women to vote for school trustees and municipal officials, women did not gain the right to vote or to hold office until 1916 and, in some provinces, as in Ontario, in 1917.

Louise McKinney was the first woman elected to a legislature in the British Empire. She ran for office in Alberta and won a seat in the provincial Legislature in 1917. This election was a major achievement for women, considering the times. We admire her courage for committing years of her life to the political process in those difficult times, when she was not only discouraged for her activities but certainly not admired, even by her friends and neighbours, both men and women. In those times, she was advised that women's place was only in the home and the only job for women was that of homemaker. Louise McKinney served as a role model for other women and influenced many females to enter politics.

I think it is appropriate today that we speak of two other firsts in Ontario, because this province has shown great leadership in this country. Agnes Macphail from Grey county was the first female to be elected to the House of Commons. She was nominated by the United Farmers of Ontario for southeast Grey. We should always remember our past.

Another first for Ontario, for those members who represent the city of Hamilton, was a woman who is very much alive and still showing leadership to other women in this province. Her name is Ellen Fairclough. She was the first federal cabinet minister, appointed by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker in 1957. For those of us who are active in politics and have had the great joy of meeting Mrs Fairclough, I can tell you that whenever she is asked, she will speak, be a role model and tell us what it was like for her in those times and what we have yet to do as women in politics in Ontario, in Canada and around the world.

Today, some 75 years later, I am proud to be a member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and I am encouraged that I am surrounded by so many other women who are making tremendous contributions to the quality of life, not only in politics but in their communities and here at Queen's Park.

I should add that we are underrepresented. My two colleagues today have already referred to the fact that the Committee for 1994, which did meet in Toronto this past weekend with a goal of achieving some 50% representation in our federal House in the federal election, was very much encouraged by the non-partisan approach of the speakers. I should tell you that Audrey McLaughlin spoke on Friday evening, I gave some message on Saturday morning, and the new Liberal leader, the member for Fort William, spoke later on in the day. We were all encouraging, and you would probably agree, Mr Speaker, that we are positive role models for those women whom we encourage to enter this field. I hope we will see significant achievements in the next federal election.

Since 1917, and especially in the last 30 years, growing attention has been devoted to the social and political status of Canadian women. Women today hold senior political offices in countries around the world. The gradual—and I say gradual—rise in the number of women leaders and influential parliamentarians demonstrates the difficulty they have in entering the world of politics and remaining there.

The two most significant barriers to women are, first, financial, raising the money—which is more important, it seems, than ever before; not appropriate, I think, but a reality of the times—and second, the commitment and choices they have to make in their personal lives and in their families.

I think by supporting each other, men and women, we can encourage other women to be part of this most important political role, that is, to play an equal role in democracy and in the policies of their government.

I am proud to be standing here today and I am sure other members of the House would join our caucus in celebrating the 75 significant years for women in politics.



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## ORAL QUESTIONS

## INVESTMENT IN ONTARIO

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** I am sure all of us who are concerned about the economy of this province want to congratulate the Ford Motor Co of Canada for the sizeable investment it announced this morning in Ontario's workforce.

This announcement comes as a welcome contrast to Friday's announcement of the current unemployment rates. Ontario's jobless rate, as we all know too well, has now hit a seven-year high of 10.5%; 609,000 Ontarians are now unemployed and a million more receive some form of social assistance. It is only too clear that Ontario needs jobs now.

In light of that, I find the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology's statement of April 3 regarding his plans for an industrial strategy to be a little perplexing. Mr Speaker, I should have addressed my question to the Premier; I apologize for not making that clear. If I can indicate the concern I have with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology's statement of April 3, it is that he says the specific initiatives for the industrial strategy can be sketched out now and developed in future years as the fiscal outlook improves.

Does the Premier not understand that the fiscal position of this province will not improve until we get our economy back on track and get people back to work? I would ask the Premier why he and his government insist on raising false expectations about an industrial strategy when the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology clearly has no plans to implement it at the present time.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** Only an opposition leader could turn a day on which Ford of Canada is announcing a \$2-billion investment in this province, a vote of confidence in the workers of this province, a vote of confidence in the cooperation that has existed and, if I may say so, cooperation that extends back in time to the days when the member for Wilson Heights was the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and when we began to establish this very effective working partnership with Ford, which we have established with Chrysler, with its production decisions in Windsor and in Brampton, and which we are now currently engaged in encouraging other companies to follow suit—Ford of Canada has announced a \$2-billion investment which will create new jobs in the province directly as a result, and I for one refuse to turn that kind of announcement into a bad-news story. I can tell the leader that right now.

We are working very intensively with our industrial partners. We are working very intensively with the universities and with companies as well through the Premier's Council on Economic Renewal.

First of all, we are dealing with two issues.

First, the budget is coming down soon, and when the budget comes down, it will clearly point to some measures which we know will encourage even more investment in the

province. The second thing is that we are working very intensively with the Premier's Council on Economic Renewal as we begin to look, targeting sector by sector, at how we can in fact make progress and how we can restore jobs to an economy that has been seriously affected in the last couple of years.

The solutions are not easy but I believe we are making good progress.

**Mrs McLeod:** In no way would I want to detract from the importance of the announcement Ford has made today, an effort to make a significant investment to maintain jobs that currently exist. That is why I began my question with that recognition, because we all know only too sadly that it is an effort that has been made by others who have not been able to continue. That is exactly why, over the past two years, more than 77% of Canada's job losses have occurred in Ontario, and it is why Metro Toronto's unemployment rate is now at an appalling 10.5%.

Recognizing the efforts that many are making to maintain existing jobs, I want to keep bringing the Premier's attention back to the people who are out of work right now and continue to ask how his government will provide jobs that are needed today. The Premier continues to talk about long-term possibilities, about the longer view, about the future outlook.

I would ask the Premier again the question I asked last week: In light of the current unemployment rates, in light of all the men and women who need jobs now, what can he point to in his industrial strategy that will actually create new jobs today?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The partnerships we have created, the work we have done on training, the work we have done with new investment: These are all things that are going to point and that are pointing now to job creation and to new growth.

Second is our commitment as a government to creating jobs ourselves, our commitment to the largest anti-recession program that any government has carried out in the history of the province, the largest public works program that's been carried out by a government—for which we were criticized by members of the opposition, but if you ask members of the construction trades or people who have been affected by this, municipality after municipality, they will point out that it's our investment that's helped make this difference.

**Mrs McLeod:** Let me simply bring the Premier's attention back to the question I asked initially, and that was the confusion created by advertising an industrial strategy which his own minister indicates will not really be implemented until the financial situation of the province improves. That raises our concern that the government does not seem to understand that the financial situation will only improve when the economy is back on track.

That leads to a further concern. As the Premier has indicated, the next major initiative of this government will be the budget it is presenting, and we're concerned that the way in which it may see this financial situation improving is through higher taxes. The Treasurer has already spoken about a minimum corporate tax and a land speculation tax,



and on Friday the working group for the Fair Tax Commission told the Treasurer of ways to change the sales tax system, but according to that working group if the government implements any of those proposals more Ontarians will lose their jobs in the next year.

Can the Premier assure us that his government will not be considering any increases in taxes that will bring about a further immediate loss of jobs?

**Hon Mr Rae:** As the Leader of the Opposition, who has such a negative view of our industrial strategy, has gone on the record, let me quote to her the comments of the president and chief executive officer of Stelco Inc, who said on April 4, 1992, "I'm delighted to see that for the first time in Ontario we have a government that is at least starting to deal with an industrial strategy."

Where we work effectively, we are able to do it. I can say in answer to the last question of the leader that she knows full well that it would be inappropriate for me at this time, as we're approaching a budget, to make any comment at all with respect to the question of taxation.

**Mrs McLeod:** Quite clearly the president of Stelco had not heard the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology indicate that the industrial strategy would not be implemented until some time in the future.

Mr Speaker, I serve notice that we will continue this line of questioning, but not with my next question, which is also to the Premier.

#### TRANSFER PAYMENTS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** Last year the Treasurer indicated that a transfer payment with a zero per cent increase would result in 5,000 hospital bed closures, 25,000 fewer students in colleges and universities, and that 6,000 classrooms would be closed. At that time the Treasurer was told by school boards that they would need a 5% increase this year simply to maintain their services. The government provided 1%. Last year the Treasurer was very well aware of the consequences of a zero per cent increase. Surely this government must have understood how a 1% increase this year would affect programs and services.

My question to the Premier is, what did he expect the 1% increase in transfer payments to do to school boards and how did his government intend to respond to what it must have known would be a chaotic situation for school boards across this province?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** As the question is about school boards, I'll ask the Minister of Education to reply.

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Education):** Certainly we were aware that the 1% transfer payment would cause some problems for school boards; there's no denying that. We've also indicated very clearly, as a result of recognizing that, that we are prepared to work with school boards to try to help them through this period, both with respect to the transition funds that we'll be distributing as well as other things that we believe we may be able to do

with respect to the area of capital spending, and obviously with respect to a number of other issues that we're involved in some discussions on now, details of which will follow.

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**Mrs McLeod:** It is a reality that in the absence of any clear guidelines for carrying out the restructuring the minister has just spoken of, boards are attempting to manage the changes themselves and to carry out some forms of restructuring. We're aware that the Peel Board of Education has taken the actions of cutting junior kindergarten and English-as-a-second-language programs. The Ottawa Board of Education is on strike and the education of children in that region has been put on hold. In York region the separate school board is cutting its French immersion program and is looking at cutting back its junior kindergarten program.

I understand the Minister of Education has now said that boards that restructure will be eligible for some transition funds, although we now recognize it may be as little as \$26 million that is available to help school boards. But I would ask the minister whether the actions that school boards are now taking are the kinds of restructuring which will make them eligible for the transition funds, and if that is not the case, will the minister tell us when some clear guidelines will be given to direct the boards as to what kind of restructuring is expected? Is it only those boards that reopen their contracts that will be eligible?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** No, specifically to the very last question. Let me just say that we expect to be announcing over the next little while the details of the criteria for accessing the transition funds. But let me also indicate that we have indicated and I continue to indicate in my discussions with teachers' federations and school boards that they need to be looking at the question of salary packages and what has been happening versus what we believe needs to happen. We believe that can happen through the kind of normal process of collective bargaining or discussions that can take place at the local level.

We also believe that a number of more specific steps have to be taken at the local level between coterminous school boards to deal with the question of administrative costs, which we believe can be reduced or eliminated in terms of duplication of services. We're working away with school boards to try to help them in those kinds of processes.

**Mrs McLeod:** I guess all I can do with this final supplementary is to try and come back to some statements that have been made by members of this government in the past for which nobody now seems to want to take much ownership. I go back to January 10, 1989, when in regard to a nursing strike that was going on at that time, the now Premier said, "We have a people issue, we have a government that is not prepared to exercise leadership on this issue and that is a disgrace." The lack of action today is a disgrace.

In regard to various actions taken by school boards, the Minister of Education has just recently said that he finds them irresponsible, yet he offers no alternatives, no guidelines, no clear expectations for schools, hospitals, colleges



or universities or municipalities. It was on January 21, 1992, when the Premier said: "We'll be there to help in the restructuring. No one's out there on their own." In spite of all the words the minister has offered us today, school boards feel as though they are very much on their own.

Can the minister please tell us precisely when he will make clear the guidelines that school boards can follow in carrying out the restructuring which this government must have expected them to do?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I will reiterate for the leader of the official opposition that we will be making those details known very soon. I will also say that we are clearly not leaving school boards out on their own. We are working with them very closely. As the leader knows, I have now had two series of contacts with people on the Peel Board of Education. We'll continue those discussions through our officials. We believe other solutions can be found there and in other instances where school boards have resorted to cutting programs. We're working with them to help them identify some of those other reductions that can be made.

These aren't things that are going to be resolved overnight. They are things that are difficult. I understand. I've been there. The Leader of the Opposition has been there. We both know what is involved. But we believe that in fact there are other solutions and I think time will prove us correct.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, last week you sat at the constitutional table in Halifax representing the people of Ontario. Tomorrow you will be returning to those discussions in Ottawa. Premier, I would ask you this: If a national referendum is not in the cards, if there is not going to be a national referendum to ratify what I believe is not just the politicians' document but indeed is the people's document, will you commit to hold a provincial referendum for Ontario citizens, a provincial referendum to give all Ontarians an opportunity to ratify any constitutional proposals that go forward?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I appreciate the question and I can say to the leader of the third party that I very much appreciated the help I have had from colleagues who are sitting next to him on either side. I gather the member for Willowdale is going to be with us tomorrow and I look forward to that.

I can say very directly to the leader of the third party that I do not think it helpful at the moment for this province to speculate with respect to the question of a referendum, for the very simple reason that what we are first of all trying to do is to reach a sufficient national agreement with respect to the substance of the reforms that are going to be discussed.

It seems to me that once we have gone through that very difficult question, we can then as a country—and Ontario will obviously be very much involved in those national discussions—arrive at a decision as to the most effective way for these decisions to be ratified. But I say to the leader of the third party, given what we are trying to do

with respect to encouraging the province of Quebec to come into the discussions and what we are trying to do with respect to reaching a consensus, I think it would be unhelpful, really unhelpful, in terms of that national dialogue, for us to increase the speculation with respect to the question of a national referendum.

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** With Bob Rae and Joe Clark in charge, how can we fail? "My name is Joe Rae." "Hi. I'm Bob Clark."

**Mr Harris:** The Premier has indicated we are now getting down to a lot of behind-closed-doors type of discussions to try—and I am not saying that at some point in time they do not have to take place. We hope not as much as they did when the member for St George-St David was there, where it was all behind closed doors—

**Mr Scott:** You used to sit right beside me at meetings.

**Mr Harris:** —and he now is so critical of you, but Premier, we appreciate that some will be there.

We also now know that the premiers of British Columbia, Alberta and certainly Quebec are all planning to hold provincial referendums on any constitutional proposals. Premier, by not extending that privilege—that right, I suggest—to Ontarians, do you not realize that you are sending a signal out to Ontarians that they, Ontarians, are less able than Albertans or less able than British Columbians or less able than Quebecers to make an informed decision on their constitution?

I ask you to reflect on this: When you went before the joint parliamentary committee you said, "There are 10 million people in Ontario and they will be heard." Premier, I think the people of Ontario would have greater confidence that will be the case if the ultimate ratification isn't the way it has been in the past, the Premier back to a majority caucus saying, "Do this," and if the ultimate ratification was indeed all the people of Ontario. Will you give the 10 million people of Ontario the right to be heard, as you said you would and as other premiers are doing in their provinces?

**Hon Mr Rae:** Again, I think the discussions across the country today with respect to the substance of constitutional reform, the issues that are before us, are really at a very important stage and will be for the next several weeks. I would just say to the leader of the third party, and he can criticize me if he so chooses, that I have basically decided that for us to engage in a long discussion about whether or how there will or will not be a referendum, either provincially or nationally, is not helpful. There will come a time when that question has to be dealt with, and that time, it seems to me, is when we have achieved what I hope will be a significant degree of agreement among the provincial governments and among the native leadership and others. At that point it seems to me we can have a really good discussion about how the constitutional amendments will be ratified, and that is the approach I prefer to take.

I would say to the honourable member that I of course have been giving this, and the government has been giving this a great deal of thought as the issue is being considered in other parts of the country. I think a better way for us to



contribute to the debate is for us to focus all our efforts on trying to reach an effective agreement among as many governments as possible. Once that has been done, there will be ample opportunity for us to deal with the question of a referendum, either national or provincial.

1440

**Mr Harris:** Let me say to the Premier that the Constitution is more than just the federal powers and the provincial powers. It's more than just prime ministers and federal cabinets and premiers and provincial cabinets arguing about who has what power, who has what tax power, who has what responsibility, what obligation. In fact, the Constitution is also a document that belongs to all the people; it belongs to all Canadians.

Mr Premier, I would suggest to you that this document and the lack of trust that followed the Meech Lake process—a lot of it was centred on the process, 11 people behind closed doors. It happened to be 11 men, which also for some reason or other made it even worse, and perhaps that is true, but 11 individuals.

Premier, there is not one person in Ontario, and I don't think there is one person in this House, who does not believe that whatever you decide will be supported unanimously by your caucus. Therefore, on your ratification process, it is Bob Rae who is going to ratify this document.

I suggest to you that this Constitution goes far beyond the politics of federal-provincial powers. I would ask you to listen to what the people said on Meech Lake, to listen to what they are saying now and to give Ontarians the same right as other Canadians are getting, the same democratic right to be heard and to have a final vote, not a great discussion.

You don't have to take all your attention away from what you're doing. You simply say, "Ultimately, when it's finally decided, we trust the people of Ontario to have enough confidence to come forward and cast a vote for their country." Will you give them that right?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I can perhaps give an even shorter answer and say that decision is one which this House and the government will obviously want to consider over time, but I think it is premature to make that decision at this point.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** Lesson number one: Never ask him a constitutional question.

**Mr Harris:** Well, I know the Liberals don't like talking about these questions, but I think they're important to Ontarians, I think they're important to Canadians, and I think it is indeed the floor of the Legislature where we should be discussing these important issues. In spite of the fact that the Liberals don't wish to debate them here, I appreciate the opportunity that is given to me to do that.

#### GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My second question is also to the Premier. Premier, in December the Minister of Government Services announced with great fanfare your 1-800 NDP chat line. On December 12 he said, "We know the value of public consultation." Well, Mr Premier, I now also know the value of your consultation. It seems that every phone call that your 1-800 NDP chat line re-

ceived has cost taxpayers \$25 and all they got for their \$25 was a recorded message. Premier, I suggest to you that these bucks stop with you. Do you think spending \$25 per call is an effective way to spend the taxpayers' dollars for the sake of increasing the NDP mailing lists?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** First of all, it is not being used to increase any NDP mailing lists, and the leader of the third party should know better than that.

I am advised that there have been 50,000 documents mailed to the public making inquiries as a result of the 1-800 number. I happen to think that it is important for the public to be able to reach their government directly and to be able to get information from their government directly, and that this is part of living in a modern democracy.

**Mr Harris:** The Premier surely knows that Ontario is reeling from the effects of a recession. In fact, you spent \$62,000 in January to go on TV to tell us just that. Then we found out last week that you spent another wad of tax dollars to blow your own throne speech horn, advertising it.

Premier, the taxpayers of this province are sick and tired of paying for NDP propaganda. The document I have from the member for Niagara South says, "The purpose of this 1-800 line was to establish new support bases across Ontario for the NDP." Given that it is \$25 a call—I mean, we can't do anything about this blatant misuse of funds. You can go ahead and do it if you want, but even you should agree that at \$25 a call to get a computer it's a total, unmitigated waste of money. Will you stop this abuse of taxpayer dollars today?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The fact of the matter is that if we had done it the way previous governments have done it, that is, by each ministry carrying out its own individual consultation, which has frequently been the case in the past—that has been the approach governments have taken—the cost of 12, 13 or 14 separate consultations would have been far higher in terms of the relationship with government.

The fact of the matter is that a direct communication—50,000 people have taken the trouble to reach their government. The government responds very quickly by giving them the information they need, 50,000 documents mailed out. I think the people of Ontario are entitled to know what the government is doing and to give us their feedback as we do that. That is what it's all about.

**Mr Harris:** I guess the answer from the Premier is, "No, we're going to continue to waste \$25 a phone call to spread our propaganda."

I realize that with \$189,000 worth of OPP officers guarding the budget, the Premier may not know the answer to my next question, but I am going to ask anyway. Given your government's track record on very expensive spin doctoring, can you tell us now how much you've budgeted, how much you're going to spend to sell your upcoming budget whatever it may say?

**Hon Mr Rae:** Whatever is done, I can assure the member that what we will do will be based on the simple premise that communicating with the public, letting the



public know what is going on and what government is doing, is what we do. If I may say so, it is what the Conservative caucus and the Liberal caucus do. What we are doing as a government is conveying information about laws and programs the public has a right to know about. That is really what it's all about.

#### CROP INSURANCE

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** The member for Prescott and Russell and the member for Bruce have both brought this matter to my attention. It is a matter of grave concern and I would like to raise it with the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

The story involves a farmer in Bruce county, Ellen Lowry. In 1988 she bought, with money from a previous marriage and a previous business, her own farm. Her husband also happens to own a farm, but the two businesses are run independently and separately. They file separate income tax returns and they deal with different banks. But this wasn't good enough for this government.

In 1991 Mrs Lowry attempted to purchase crop and revenue insurance for her business. The local branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food approved her application but it was overturned by officials at head office. Her appeal to the Ontario Crop Insurance Arbitration Board, which contained on it the same ministry bureaucrats who turned her down to begin with, was also denied. Mrs Lowry was told that, unless she agreed to amalgamate her own business with her husband's in order to enrol in government programs, not only would her applications be denied but also those of her husband. Out of necessity and under duress, she signed.

I would like to ask the minister, whose government has billed itself as a great protector of women in this province, is it the minister's view that women should not be encouraged or even allowed to operate their own businesses in Ontario?

1450

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** I'd like to reassure the member that this—

Interjection.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, the member for St George-St David.

Interjection.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I'm aware of the agricultural support for the member for St George-St David within his riding, but perhaps he would allow the Minister of Agriculture and Food to respond to the serious question posed by the member for Eglinton.

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** As I was saying, I want to reassure the member that this government very much supports the concept of women having the opportunity to start and in fact run a small business or any business for that matter.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orillia):** That's rhetoric.

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** That is not rhetoric; that is the truth.

In terms of the issue the member raised regarding crop insurance, I must say it's an ongoing concern of ours. It's

not just with spousal plans, where both spouses are operating a farm independently. It's also true of other operations where you have rented land, where sometimes there's an attempt by families to split their crop insurance plans.

It causes us some concern. We've tried to wrestle with the concept of how we can offer fair crop insurance and continue to have the plan be effective and useful for farmers. It is a problem, as the member has raised, and it's something that we're aware of. We're grappling with just how to deal with it because we do not have the answers at this point in time.

**Ms Poole:** The minister has said they are deeply concerned over this issue, but they have not addressed it. I think it is disgraceful that this government, which promised a brave new world for women in this province, would have a policy that is so discriminatory towards women. It is a sad irony that this NDP policy is an issue on the very day that we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of women winning the right to vote. It is obvious that the minister responsible for women's issues has had no impact on changing the attitudes and policies of government ministries.

When the minister investigates the Lowry case, which I would ask him to do, and if he finds out that the facts are exactly as I've stated them today, will he commit to changing this discriminatory policy so that Ellen Lowry and other women farmers across this province receive the fairness to which they are entitled?

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** Mr Speaker, I wish you would allow me the time that's necessary to explain to the member and perhaps the Legislature how crop insurance works in this province. Under the—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. Would the member take his seat, please. Minister.

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** The crop insurance plans we have in place do not allow father and son to divide either. It's treated as one unit. The reason behind that—and I would say that this is not a government policy we've brought in; this is the crop insurance plan that has been in place for many years—is so that farmers, where there's more than one individual involved, will not split their acreage.

It's well known that sometimes farmers rent additional farms and would like to have separate coverage for that. It's very difficult for the plan to operate when you have one farm or one area that's split off and has different insurance coverage, because the land very often is not as productive. So when we have crop insurance we try to insure all the land under one plan so you balance off the loss you might have on one farm against losses on the other farm.

Interjection.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The member for St George-St David.

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** It is not a discriminatory policy against women. Father and son are treated the same way.

Interjections.



**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member take his seat, please.

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** Bob and Ruth are making notes already. You're gone with that policy, just gone.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** With the cooperation of the member for St George-St David, we can continue with question period. The next member is the member for Mississauga South.

#### HOMES FOR THE AGED

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** My question is for the Minister of Labour. Minister, I know you're aware, or you should be aware by now, that 12 beds will be closing at Sheridan Villa Home for the Aged in my riding as a result of the provincial arbitrator's award of wage and benefit increases amounting to 13.3% over the next two years. As well, the equivalent of 13 jobs will be lost at Sheridan Villa and Peel Manor.

The reason for the bed closures and layoffs is that without the provincial money the region of Peel, which runs the home for the aged, simply doesn't have the money. Having received a transfer payment increase of 1% this year, Peel could not pay the arbitration award without making bed and staff cuts.

The Premier and several of his cabinet colleagues, including you, Mr Minister, have called for restraint in wage settlements. Given their restraints and their statements on restraint, the current inflation rate of 1.3% and the 1% increase in this year's provincial transfer payments to municipalities, does this minister think it was right for the provincial arbitrator to grant wage and benefit increases totalling 13.3% over the next two years to CUPE staff at Sheridan Villa and Peel Manor?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I guess the question I have at this point in time for the member who raises the question is, is she suggesting that workers don't have the right to negotiate a contract and to go to arbitration and to arrive at a figure? I think that's a question worth asking. Do we eliminate the whole collective bargaining process?

**Mrs Marland:** I guess this minister doesn't even hear what his own cabinet colleagues and his Premier have said on this subject. My constituents want to know why, when we have a five-year waiting list for beds in the Peel homes for the aged, 12 beds will be cut. We want to know why people have to lose their jobs so that fewer workers can have higher wages and we also want to know why the NDP government isn't limiting the awards being given by provincial arbitrators.

Mr Minister, I will tell you that when our party was in power in the early 1980s, we were coping with the economic reality of that recession and we introduced two bills to limit wage settlements. The first legislated a public sector wage cap and suspended the process of binding arbitration. The second allowed collective bargaining to resume as the economy improved but required arbitrators to cost their awards and consider the employer's ability to pay.

Will this minister introduce similar legislation to limit wage settlements to the 1%, 2% and 2% increases his government has given the hospitals, the school boards and the municipalities over the next three years?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I think the member knows that trying to deal with the economic situation we're facing is one of the things this government has been doing, and working very hard at. I think the member also should understand that if the route taken by the workers in a situation like this is to go the arbitration route and stay with that position, then they are also inviting whatever action happens in their case.

1500

#### CONTAMINATED LANDFILL

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The Minister of the Environment has a response to a question asked earlier by the Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** Last week, the Leader of the Opposition asked me a question with respect to alleged dumping of illegal fill in Hamilton harbour. I am sure, as is the Leader of the Opposition, that all members are aware of our commitment to clean up Hamilton harbour and other contaminated sites. I have the facts of that situation and, with your indulgence, would like to share them with the House.

First of all, let me say that in Hamilton harbour the harbour commission, which is a federal agency, is working on the rehabilitation of two areas. One in the west end is where a breakwater is being constructed as part of a marina. The second one, which is the one that was raised here, is the Windermere basin. The cleanup of the Windermere basin went through the federal environmental assessment review process, in which the Ministry of the Environment provided technical advice and was consulted. That cleanup was approved. The cleanup involves dredging toxic mud from the basin and dumping it behind earth dikes or berms. The berms are then lined with stone and filters to prevent the contaminants from leaching back into the basin, and the silt is then capped with clean fill, creating new land.

Regarding the site in Mississauga, a company undertook decommissioning of a service station site. That project was carried out in two phases. Phase 1 was the removal last year of heavily contaminated soil, which was treated as waste and disposed of in certified landfill sites. Phase 2, which was the one the member raised here, was almost 3,000 tonnes of soil that did not come from the service station but came from an adjacent residential neighbourhood.

When the investigations and enforcement branch received information of that dumping in Hamilton harbour, we tested that soil. It had been tested federally and was found to be suitable for capping. When we got the complaint last week, we examined it again and have asked the federal government to review its tests and to share that information with us, and it has agreed to do that.

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** As a supplementary to the information the minister has provided—and I appreciate her follow-up on the question we



raised last week, and the information she provides certainly is consistent with the report we had received, which was that soils exhibiting petroleum hydrocarbon contamination were removed for offsite disposal—I would ask the minister, given the information she has currently provided, should we assume, then, that the regulations of the Ministry of the Environment are such that soil which was removed because it was not considered safe for residential land use was indeed considered safe for disposal in Hamilton harbour?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** As I tried to indicate in my lengthy description of this site, the soil that was used for capping was not going into the harbour. It was soil that had been removed from a residential area, was found through its testing not to have been contaminated and therefore considered waste material, but did meet the guidelines for the rehabilitation of industrial and commercial sites and therefore was approved for capping on that particular site.

#### HEALTH CARE

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** My question is to the Premier. Between 1990 and 1993, some 8,000 employees—most of them women, I might add—of Ontario's hospitals will have no jobs, and more than 5,000 hospital beds will be closed. Hospitals have not received consistent and clear guidelines regarding provincial standards on their downsizing. Indeed, some of those hospitals have received mixed messages from your government.

In early March of this year a member of your party charged that "Some of the decisions that have come out of the hospital's board are totally irresponsible." This quote comes directly from a news release issued by the member for Yorkview on March 11 of this year. He was referring to the operations and administration of York-Finch General Hospital.

Mr Premier, I would like to know if this member speaks for the government with these charges. Do you, as Premier, concur that the board of the York-Finch hospital is "totally irresponsible" in the decisions it has made with respect to the management of the hospital and the provision of services to the York-Finch community? Further, Mr Premier, is this simply another in a continuing pattern of unjust accusations directed against health care professionals and institutions, which seems to be a mark of this government?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I'm going to ask the Minister of Health to answer that question.

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy):** I am bit perplexed with the member's question suggesting that the mark of the government has been accusations against health care institutions or health care professionals. In fact, I think we've developed a very good working relationship across the board with respect to providers, professionals and institutions.

The member asked specifically about comments made by a member of the Legislature with respect to a local hospital in that member's riding. The member may have concerns with respect to the hospital. I intend to have a

meeting with both the member and members of the hospital board in the future to look at issues that have been raised.

I do not at this point in time have any comments to make about allegations of irresponsibility. What I will say is that right across the board in this province we face a tremendous challenge in the hospital sector with respect to restructuring. I think there have been many hospitals which have grasped the nature of the change and with a good spirit of cooperation have been involving workers in the decision-making around downsizing and restructuring. It is a partnership we hope to promote throughout the hospital sector.

In some areas, hospitals have fallen short of that, and we're hoping that through the establishment of guidelines which we're working on with the Ontario Hospital Association we'll be able to ensure better consistency across the province.

**Mrs Sullivan:** This question went directly to the issue of the standards of behaviour for members of this government. I want to proceed in my supplementary with further indications of concern that have been expressed to me not only by people at the hospital but by people in the community.

The York-Finch hospital has been appointed by the Department of National Health and Welfare as the only hospital in Canada to participate in international clinical trials of an Excimer laser for use by ophthalmologists in the treatment of glaucoma, corneal scars and other corneal diseases. The member for Yorkview has publicly objected to what he calls "the outrageous cost of leasing an eye laser machine" which, in his judgement, "does not benefit the community."

He directs the president of the hospital in a letter sent on March 11 to reinstate six jobs in an IV team at the hospital and discontinue the lease for the laser machine. He also insists that the president of York-Finch hospital contact him as soon as possible to clarify a number of issues, including the purchase of a microscope. He demands to know how the microscope will be paid for and that the president justify that purchase to him.

By what authority does the member make these public statements and these demands? Is there a new power given to NDP members to intervene in hospital matters in this way? Is this a signal of what we can expect under a revised hospital act? If the member has acted with no authority, as the Minister of Health has indicated, will the Minister of Health and the Premier discipline the member of their caucus, issue a public apology for this unwarranted intrusion into the hospital's administration and the unseemly and incorrect charges of irresponsible management the member has made? I want the answer to that question now.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** I'm glad the member had that all written out. I'm sure she couldn't have got through it with a straight face otherwise.

Let me say, before the member continues to misconstrue comments I have made, that I did not say that any member acted without authority. Members in this House from all parties take positions with respect to issues in their own ridings. I get letters being lobbied from members



of all parties in this House with respect to concerns they have, and I try to respond to all of those issues. Because this member happens to be a member of my caucus does not mean I will not respond to issues that have been raised.

Let me turn to the issue of how hospitals are handling their situations. In fact, the issue of York-Finch hospital has been brought to my attention. The board of that hospital has concerns which I think legitimately need to be responded to by the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health. I think those kinds of relationships that exist at a local level are of concern to individual members, others in this House as well as members from my party.

I will continue to work with boards of hospitals in the regions to address their legitimate concerns. I am not going to engage in this kind of nonsense here in the Legislature.

1510

#### CLOSING OF NURSERIES

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Mr McLean:** E. C. Drury, Ontario Farmer Premier from 1919 to 1923, must be turning in his grave following your decision to close tree nurseries—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I was having a little difficulty hearing the question. First, could the member identify to whom he is placing the question.

**Mr McLean:** My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources.

E. C. Drury, Ontario Farmer Premier from 1919 to 1923, must be turning in his grave following your decision to close the nurseries in Midhurst, Thunder Bay, Chapleau and Gogama. As you know, Mr Drury farmed at Crown Hill and was responsible for establishing Canada's first massive reforestation program.

Minister, your decision to close the Midhurst tree nursery does not make sense and is unacceptable. It is a well-known fact that Midhurst is the third-largest nursery in the province and has a reputation for producing the best bare root nursery stock in southern Ontario. It shipped more trees in 1991 than any other southern nursery. Minister, how do you justify closing the Midhurst tree nursery, which is one of the most efficient and effective operations of its kind in Ontario?

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for native affairs):** I appreciate the question from the member because it is a very important one. The member will know that the decision was mine. It was made on the basis not of the numbers of seedlings to be planted but of what kinds of seedlings are required by the program. The 10 nurseries we have in the ministry produce bare root nursery stock. The demand has been increasing over the last number of years, as we've increased the number of seedlings planted in Ontario, for container stock. That has been true since the former member for Cochrane South, Alan Pope, was the minister.

There are a number of private nurseries open that produce container stock.

Because of the demand for container stock, as opposed to bare root stock, the 10 nurseries we had were operating at only 65% capacity this year. If we'd kept them all open, they would've been operating at only 45% capacity next year. The decision to close four means that the remaining six will continue to operate at 75% capacity, which is a far more efficient way to provide that amount of bare root nursery stock still required.

**Mr McLean:** I find it unacceptable that a minister of the crown who for many years promoted planting more trees is now planting far fewer trees than we ever have. On February 12 you indicated that money this year to plant 23 million seedlings was not there. Approximately 12,000 hectares of harvested land will not be reforested. To make a bad situation worse, there is a rumour that as many as 40 million seedlings may not get planted this year. Does this show commitment to good forest management?

Minister, you have obligations to immediately provide the House with the scientific and technical data used as the basis for your decision to close those tree nurseries. You had no planning. You have no idea of the reason behind the closing of those nurseries. My understanding was that Orono was supposed to be closed. Due to the lobbying of the minister, you changed it to Midhurst. What is the basis on which you closed them?

**Hon Mr Wildman:** The member has asked a number of questions. I'll attempt to answer the last one first and then deal with the others. The question asked was, why did we close these nurseries? I've already answered that. They were operating at 65% capacity, and if they'd remained open they would've been operating at 45% capacity. The decision was made to maintain a nursery in each region. We could've indeed closed more nurseries, and I'm sure the member wouldn't have appreciated that.

**Mr Stockwell:** You could've closed them all.

**Hon Mr Wildman:** No, we could not have closed them all, because we still need some bare root stock.

The member has referred to the number of seedlings planted. The member will know that last year 165 million seedlings were planted, and the same number the previous year, at a cost of about \$1 a seedling. We committed \$165 million to seedling planting in Ontario.

The fact is that this year, under our constraints, we will not be able to commit \$165 million. As the member knows, instead of approaching a surplus the way previous governments have done and simply bulldozing them and not using them, we have attempted to ensure that they will indeed be planted. I am happy to say that 30 million seedlings have been committed under Operation Tree Plant for planting this year. We're going to plant those trees.

#### NON-PROFIT HOUSING

**Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold):** I've got a question for the Minister of Housing. Friday night just past I was in St Catharines at a candlelight vigil, a rally attended by hundreds of people. The member for Lincoln and the member for St Catharines-Brock were there. So



were people like Betty Ann Baker from Niagara Peninsula Homes—even her little kid. Jessie Birch was there helping to organize the event. But the largest number of people there were gravely concerned about the fate of the federal co-operative housing program and the fate of co-operative housing here in Ontario.

You know that Niagara has been one of the most successful jurisdictions for co-operative housing. Indeed, there are many examples there. The success story, though, was dampened by the very secretive, behind-closed-doors slashing, elimination of funding for the federal co-operative program in the last federal budget. The budget also reduced the funding for federal-provincial non-profit housing programs.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Does the member have a question?

**Mr Kormos:** Yes, I do, Mr Speaker. In December the federal government was still reaffirming its commitment to co-op housing. In my riding alone, numerous co-op housing units are going to fail because of the federal slashing. I'd like to know what this means and is going to mean for Ontarians and, more specifically, I want to know what you're doing in response to it.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** The member for Welland-Thorold is quite correct. The announcement made in the federal budget came as a surprise not only to those on-the-ground, community-based and municipal non-profit organizations that have been providing projects for assisted housing here in Ontario but also to the provincial governments which have cooperated in federal-provincial housing programs since the 1940s.

The cost of these cutbacks to Ontario over five years will be 6,700 units, involving about 8,000 construction jobs. We feel strongly about what's been happening and we were encouraged in our action. We got in touch with the federal minister and asked him to meet with provincial ministers of housing. He was not able to make the meeting, but last Friday we met in Ottawa and we are going to carry forward work, hopefully to change the federal government's mind on this item.

**Mr Kormos:** We've got waiting lists miles long of people who want to get into co-op housing down in Niagara. It's been difficult enough to persuade the government to meet its commitment in terms of the percentage of its funding that goes to co-op housing compared to other forms of housing. I'm telling you, people down there are angry, they're dismayed, they're disappointed. They're mad as hell and they're concerned that not enough is being done. They're concerned also at the fact that the federal minister was a no-show. The federal minister slipped out the back door rather than meet with his provincial and territorial ministers last Friday.

I'd like to ask this minister what took place at that meeting on Friday. What is she going to do to help the thousands of people in my riding and adjoining ridings who need decent, secure, affordable housing, and the workers, quite frankly, whose lives depend upon the constructions of these homes? I want to know what happened at that meeting.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** The provincial ministers involved are concerned, and I am concerned as one of them. We are going to have a 21% cutback on federal funding overall for the federal-provincial housing programs this year, and next year it will be over 50%, starting with the base coming out of 1991. That means for many provinces—fortunately not this one at this stage—that the critical mass of programs supported by the federal government just is no longer going to be large enough two years hence so that other provinces will be able to consider to keep on moving the housing programs forward.

I have been delegated by the ministers of housing with whom I met to meet Mr MacKay and make to him the proposal that he and the federal government reconsider their commitment to federal-provincial housing programs this year and work with the provinces to try to work out effective delivery mechanisms so the federal government will feel it is getting the most for its money when it helps provinces develop good housing programs.

1520

## PETITIONS

### GO BUS SERVICE

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** I am pleased to table a petition signed by 334 of the many thousands of concerned residents who will be affected by the proposed cancellation of the Lakeshore GO bus service from Hamilton to Toronto and from Toronto to Hamilton, which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, object to the proposed cancellation of the Lakeshore GO bus service, Hamilton-Toronto, Toronto-Hamilton. We therefore ask the minister to reconsider the proposal, particularly pertaining to the rush-hour service, as the complete cancellation will force communities to find other ways to reach their jobs and destinations."

### ABANDONMENT OF RAILWAY LINES

**Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough):** I have a petition to submit today which has been signed by 1,809 signatories. Those signatures from the counties of Hastings, Peterborough and Victoria. The petition reads:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas in the counties of Hasting, Peterborough and Victoria there have been in recent years major abandonment of railway lines;

"Therefore, we urge the Premier of Ontario to declare that all abandoned railway rights of way in the Kawarthas be maintained in public ownership for their scenic, historic and recreational value, with potential for linkage to east-west transprovincial trails."

I submit this petition and I am affixing my name to this petition as well.



## GAME AND FISH ACT

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** Today I have a petition signed by some 20 constituents in my riding concerning Bill 162. It has been circulated by the Ontario deer farmers' association, which, as you know, has very serious concerns about Bill 162. The bill will, among other things, extend the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources to cover all animals in Ontario, not just Ontario's wildlife, and ban the farming of non-native white-tailed deer and possibly all deer farming. I have affixed my signature to this petition as well.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN  
SAFETY ACT, 1992LOI DE 1992 SUR LA SÉCURITÉ  
DES PIÉTONS ET DES VÉHICULES

Mr Chiarelli moved first reading of Bill 5, An Act to provide for Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety / Loi prévoyant la sécurité des piétons et des véhicules.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** This bill would prohibit persons from walking or running on highways or railway tracks or driving vehicles on highways while wearing earphones.

This bill was introduced in the last session as Bill 157 and it died on Orders and Notices. While this bill was dying on the order paper, a young Brampton man was dying on railway tracks while wearing a headset. This legislation is intended to help prevent that type of accident.

## PETERBOROUGH CLUB ACT, 1992

Ms Carter moved first reading of Bill Pr26, An Act to revive the Peterborough Club.

Motion agreed to.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** On Thursday I spoke at quite some length on the throne speech and the direction in which the throne speech was taking us. So I'll conclude my remarks of Thursday, because I know there are many members in this House who are eagerly awaiting their turn to be able to participate in this debate as well. Very briefly, I'll just sum up the gist of what I said on Thursday.

The central thrust of the throne speech, of which I am wholeheartedly in support, is to create jobs. It builds on a record of creating jobs by some very direct examples: direct investment in business and the establishment of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. This is a very substantial project because it deals with the issue of assisting people in making the transition from workplace to workplace, from unemployment rolls to the workplace and from social assistance rolls to the workplace as well. I

applaud our government's backing of this particular program and its agenda in establishing the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board.

I would also like to sum up by talking directly about five examples in my own particular community where the issue of creating jobs, of getting people back to work, is a central tenet of this particular government.

I talked extensively on Thursday about the issue of de Havilland and keeping the jobs of those 3,000-plus people who are currently employed there. As you know, for every job we retain at de Havilland there are roughly four jobs in the greater Metro area dependent on that. There are about 64,000 people directly involved in this particular industry, and as you know, Mr Speaker, de Havilland is one of those companies that is at the top of the pyramid, the top of that structure. Quite frankly, if de Havilland had been allowed to crumble, as was suggested by the former Liberal Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology in one of the committee meetings I attended—he was of the view that if the company was not productive, it should be allowed to sink through the drain, to disappear, as it were, and lose those particular jobs—we would have lost all the jobs that de Havilland creates and promotes.

The extension of the subway was recently announced—another 185 or between 80 and 85, depending on which numbers you particularly agree with—extending the subway from Wilson station to Sheppard. This is a major job creator in our community and it is welcome. Again, it applies to and is central to the government's agenda. It is a central tenet in the speech from the throne: to create jobs and get people back to work.

1530

Again, I would like to say that the Minister of Municipal Affairs on Thursday introduced in this House a document which would suggest that the planning process is going to be streamlined to some degree so we can get these jobs that are going to be directly a beneficiary of government programs and government initiatives well on their way, and this is a welcome thing.

There have been several direct investments in York University: the science building, another investment of \$19 million or \$20 million made directly by this government, an investment which not only creates construction and construction-related jobs in the short term, but also, through the development of an active science faculty, I cannot talk enough about what this kind of technology does for jobs and so on, and there is this government's backing of the bid for the space science university to be located at York. When our government and the two ministers responsible, both the Minister of Universities and Colleges and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, issued their statements that they would be backing this bid for York University to get this kind of program, it was a welcome thing in Downsview.

Quite frankly, some blame should be laid at the doorstep of the federal government, which sat on the sidelines and did nothing when the tendering for this particular bid began to close, Mr Speaker, because as you know a Quebec university also submitted a parallel bid. In its submission of a parallel bid, the federal government played a little



politics, sat on the fence and didn't do anything for either of the two universities. They didn't do anything for the Quebec-based university and they didn't do anything for the Toronto- and Downsview-based York University.

It's good to see they've gotten off the fence and have thrown their support behind the bid. Hopefully this will not be too late, because this is a substantial investment in our people, in our resources and technology, which has been much awaited and much needed here in Ontario and in Canada. We all know that this university is a leader in that area, in attracting that calibre of individual. The calibre of scientists this particular university would attract to Ontario and Canada is almost unprecedented. Again, it's a welcome thing.

I'd like to conclude my remarks by simply reiterating that the speech that was read from the throne by the Lieutenant Governor is a welcome statement on getting this province and this country going, because as we all know, Ontario is the engine that drives Canada from an economic standpoint. I think it is universally accepted right across the country that if Ontario slumps and falters, then the rest of Canada will slump and falter, but if Ontario does well economically, if our industrial base, our industrial infrastructure, is sound, healthy and vibrant, then so will the rest of Canada's be.

The statement, the document that was read, points in a good direction and I wholeheartedly support it. I would hope that both the Liberal and Conservative caucuses would support that as well, because there is nothing more important and pressing today in this province and in this country than to get people back to work, to stimulate the economy, to create jobs.

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** I would like to take a few seconds to comment on the member's reply to the throne speech. He would have us believe that the government of which he is a part has addressed the economic problems faced by the citizens of our province. That in fact is not true. We saw very little in the throne speech that in any way addressed the economic restructuring that is going on in Canada, in Ontario and in other jurisdictions throughout the world.

We didn't see any movement on Sunday shopping, which would assist some of our retailers to compete with the cross-border phenomenon. We didn't see any movement, as I said, on Sunday shopping which might save thousands of retail jobs. We didn't see any movement on the reduction of the huge deficit that is being run up this year and in next year's fiscal budget. It is very clear that one of the reasons the Bank of Canada is having difficulty in further lowering interest rates is because of the effect the large Ontario deficit is having on the country as a whole. This is not just being said by politicians in Ontario; this is being said by politicians of all stripes and people of all economic backgrounds, whether their economic background is of the left or the right or the centre, in different jurisdictions across this province, that Ontario deficits are now having a significant impact on what the interest rate would be on moneys borrowed.

Those are only a couple of points I'd like to remind the honourable member of as he contemplates the lack of leadership that we saw in this most recent throne speech.

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** I too want to simply add a few comments on the comments of my colleague the member for Downsview.

He has to recognize that he comes from the downtown Toronto area, and certainly some of the problems were touched on. But one of the major problems is that when an analysis regarding pollution was done of six major North American cities, Toronto was the highest in the pollution count, and nothing really came forth in the speech from the throne addressing that pollution problem.

I realize that the member for Downsview doesn't have any farms in his riding, because his is a very densely populated area. However, it was mentioned in the speech from the throne that agriculture was in great difficulty. We are aware of that, but there were no solutions whatever put forward regarding the dilemma that's being faced by some 60,000 farm families.

The concern I have is for when this government starts cutting, and indeed they're going to have to do some cutting. I don't think there is any doubt about that when we see de Havilland, for example, getting \$350 million for 3,000 workers to produce airplanes that are losing millions, every one that comes off the assembly line. That doesn't do a great deal for anyone. We in eastern Ontario do not have those highly paid automotive jobs where we understand that at some of the automotive companies they have resisted working an hour of overtime.

Bring those jobs to eastern Ontario. Mention eastern Ontario and I'll tell you, they will not resist working one, two or five hours overtime. Bring on the overtime. They are ready to work. Right now there are no jobs. We're into 20% unemployment, and that's what has to be addressed in the speech from the throne. I am very much afraid that it was very short on any sort of positive news in that vein.

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** I will respond to my Conservative colleague first since he came up last.

He talked about there being pollution in Metro and no farms in Toronto. I would venture to say that I would compare, acre per acre, the amount of actual crops that are produced in Downsview, because as he well knows just about every household has a very active and vibrant yard where they grow tomatoes and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. If we had to match bushel for bushel what one acre of farm land in Downsview produces against one acre of farm land in his riding, the member would find that they're quite comparable.

He talks about de Havilland and allowing de Havilland to perish because it's a losing cause. It worries me when I hear members in this Legislature take technology and the kinds of industry that de Havilland represents and bunch them up into a Third World kind of economy and say that because this particular industry is not vibrant and productive, it should be allowed to perish, and give us those jobs because we have fewer of those jobs. As he well knows, in Downsview it's a largely immigrant, ethnic, construction-work type of population where unemployment runs between



45% and 55%. Ask any union local and it will tell you that everybody is at home. I don't quite agree with comparing the two and saying, "Give it to us and take it from them."

My Liberal colleague talked about Sunday shopping, that if somehow we were to open the doors to Sunday shopping, then the economy would continue to thrive and start venturing in that way. Quite frankly, there aren't any statistics on this, but I feel he's wrong because those trips across the border would be made regardless. Get rid of the GST and then we can do something about that.

1540

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** I want to say what an honour it is for me to respond to this throne speech, but I also want to say what a difficult task it is. At the outset I should say to you how extremely disappointed I am with the contents of that throne speech. There is nothing there. I tried to look as objectively as possible to find areas that we, the official opposition, could work on together in order to make it a better direction in which to be led by the government which is offering this throne speech. I took the opportunity to look in detail at the present throne speech and at the first throne speech that was offered in this House. Later on I will make some comments about them and tell you where they went in different directions.

What I see a throne speech to be, and I am sure you would agree with me, is a speech of direction, of vision, of areas governments would like to address and of concern. It is a speech where the constituencies of the province would like to be recognized for the struggles they are going through and know the government will address those problems.

As you know, Mr Speaker, we are going through some rather difficult times, in the sense of recession. As a matter of fact, some of the people say to me, "What recession?" The fact is that they have been going through a recession for years and have been hoping that governments would come about and address some of those problems. I wished too at one stage that I would have maybe an hour or two in which to make some of the comments I hoped would have been in this throne speech, but I don't have that time because other colleagues of mine would like to place their points of view and put some suggestions to the government, hopeful that it would listen. But it is not a government that really listens.

My riding, Scarborough North, is a highly densely populated riding. There are great concerns there: all the things that are expressed in Ontario, things that are of concern, such as the closing down of companies, business bankruptcy and personal bankruptcy, people who would like to advance their education and further their knowledge who have to be denied that because of money and loss of jobs. All those things are happening in Scarborough North. Environmental concerns are not addressed in the throne speech. The Sunday shopping issue is not addressed in the throne speech.

I wonder what direction and what we must look for from a government to which we are looking for leadership and which has placed on us a lack of leadership at a very

crucial time in this province. As the member for Scarborough North, I would hope that when I approach the members across the floor for some of the concerns we have, they would at least listen. As the official opposition's critic of the Solicitor General, of employment equity, human rights and race relations, I'll try to spend a few minutes in addressing some of those concerns and tell you about my disappointment.

Before I do so, I just want to make mention of the first throne speech this government put forward. One of the things that jumped out at me was a statement very early in the throne speech. They stated, "My government's first challenge is to earn the trust and respect of the people of Ontario," and they're still trying to earn the trust and respect of the people. "My government's integrity will be measured by the way this government is run and our relations with the people we serve. Our task is to guard against institutional arrogance." Just today, you heard one of the members of the government side exercising that arrogance in regard to the hospital in his riding. They have still to earn the respect of the people in that light.

"We will set clear standards of behaviour for the conduct of ministers." I will not comment on that, because we certainly have seen the kind of conduct by ministers of this government in such a short time. Many times one wants to bow down one's head in shame. Even though I am on this side, I expect better from that government, or from any government of this province, than the manner in which some of the ministers have behaved.

As a matter of fact, Mr Speaker, as you know, today in the House we cannot call anybody a liar. We cannot do that. We are almost at the point that people are admitting they lied. This is really something I have to come to grips with. Even you, Mr Speaker, at times have to look up at the things that some of the members and ministers are saying. We hope that some integrity will come about in the government and that we can get some honesty and solid guidance from the members and ministers of that government.

They said, "We must create a greater sense of integrity in the work of government," and, "We will establish a measure to ensure more fairness in appointments to government agencies, boards and commissions." As recently as yesterday we saw an appointment of an NDP member to the Ontario Municipal Board. It is so blatant that a colleague of mine on this side from Ottawa had to get up and say what arrogance it was to appoint someone who had done his best to retard progress. He is now in charge of making things progressive and moving things ahead. I presume that if you have an NDP card and stick around long enough, you get an appointment. But all these things were supposed to have gone away. They were supposed to go through a process. But I presume there are certain things that we have to ignore when they are in power.

I mentioned that, Mr Speaker, because I'm telling you that this government's credibility is in great question. However, of course I'm happy to say that there are at least still some members over on the government side who I hope will conduct themselves in the manner they have



always done and will not be lost in the morass of the kind of behaviour I have seen there.

I want to address the employment equity aspect of this. The NDP government very much reaffirmed its commitment to employment equity in the throne speech. I was happy to hear that. Two years ago, Mr Speaker, you can recall, the now Premier, when he was the official opposition leader, introduced what we call a private member's bill—I will refresh your memory, Mr Speaker; it was Bill 172, a good bill—to enact employment equity legislation in this province.

Of course the Premier apparently seemed to have little faith in his own proposed legislation. I would have thought that having done this preliminary work, when he arrived in the government of which he is now the Premier, all he would have done was reintroduce the bill and then proceed with that. But somehow he found it necessary not to do so. Maybe when he was in opposition he had the strong moral principle to bring employment equity in. Now that he is in government, I presume he's hesitating.

1550

It's important to note, if you feel I am being partisan about this and being cute about it, that the Premier's private member's legislation was supported in principle by members from all three parties. I say that really to remind the members of the government party that people can disagree with the specific form of a proposal made by the government without necessarily opposing the intent of the bill. Many members opposite do not seem to be able to distinguish that difference at times, because quite often, as soon as you disagree with the government, all kinds of names are thrown at you.

We're all trying to find a solution or solutions to the problems facing our province, and let us understand that if someone disagrees with the NDP policy, it is not because that person is by corollary a fascist, as it has been called inside this House; we heard it. If I disagree with this government's advocacy legislation, it is because I sincerely believe that legislation to be profoundly and irrevocably flawed.

I do not question the pressing need for legislative action on the issue. I just want to identify the problems they have. Since it is a government that can listen, I presume, with closed ears, and seems to listen, I hope it would see some of the wisdom we say over on this side to make a better bill. If we disagree with some of the proposals the government has put forward on changing the Labour Relations Act, we are not, as members opposite would say, union bashers. We're not. But as soon as you do that, that's what happens.

I can recall when I put forward my bill, Bill 51, their own member over there sat up looking at the policy, which was rather sound, which is a sterling bill up to today that is the hallmark of how rent review is being exercised. What they did was personally attack me and my accent. It's awful, attacking my accent, not the policy of the rent review bill. However, as the government of the day, we stood in the position and the authority of that office and carried it out in the way it should be carried out. So I'm telling the members on that side too that when we do

criticize your bill, we are criticizing it because we believe Ontario can be a better place with better laws.

We over on this side stand committed to ending discrimination and we want enhanced fairness in the workplace. We want all Ontarians to have access to work and to be treated fairly, regardless of colour, class or creed. We all want to be treated fairly.

You see, Mr Speaker, employment equity is about access. I had a letter from a company, Omnibus Consulting Inc. I'm just going to read two of the lines from it, what it talks about, what employment equity is all about. It says: "Employment equity cannot just be seen as a social issue. In this age of reduced Canadian productivity, we must seek out the links between the existence of an equitable employment system and increased productivity."

Another line in this note he sent to me, hoping we would look at the employment equity situation properly, says, "The real creation of an equitable employment system allows for the full utilization of a company's total human resources."

That's what it's all about. It's about access and utilizing our human resources. I want to make it very plain and very clear to the minister and her colleagues over there that we stand committed to eliminating discrimination and enhancing fairness in the workplace. We want legislation that reflects this dynamic and complex society, legislation which works, legislation which will put all Ontarians to work.

I have every confidence in the sincere desire of Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré, the Employment Equity Commissioner, to build upon the framework for employment equity established by the previous Liberal and Conservative governments. I must, however, say that I am somewhat perplexed by the often contradictory signals sent by this government on employment equity.

For example, we have an NDP Solicitor General insisting to the provincial fire chiefs that his government has no intention of setting goals in law for employment equity fire services, while noting that the government did, however, support their voluntary adoption. Still, with the Solicitor General, I know that the employment equity regulation in the Police Services Act sets out specific timetables in law for establishing employment equity plans but does not give any guidelines for the implementation of these plans.

I also note that while the Minister of Education's Bill 125 has an amendment regarding employment equity, there is just one designated group mentioned: women. I say this very carefully too, because of course women have been denied access into the workplace and they've been denied being paid properly and treated fairly. But they are not the only group. I want to say that while the Minister of Citizenship always speaks of four designated groups, there are still many francophones in this province waiting for a satisfactory response from the minister about their exclusion from the legislation.

If the government is already planning to bring in employment equity legislation, why does the Minister of Education feel the need to bring in separate legislation? I can't understand that, and I hope that one day he will be able to



clarify that. Indeed, why then has the Solicitor General brought in his own legislation?

On a Saturday night recently I was at the Harry Jerome awards, along, of course, with the Premier in his grandeur singing his song that we're all in one boat. We came here differently, but we're all in one boat. I hope with the opportunity that this government has that he doesn't start putting holes in that boat and sinking us, because we're all in one boat now.

I was there at the Harry Jerome awards with the Premier, and of course my colleague the member for Fort William was there and the member for York Centre and my neighbour and colleague the member for Scarborough-Agincourt. There was a quotation in the program which was surprisingly absent from the throne speech. I think we can learn so much from our constituents, the people we represent. It stated, "Education is the best equalizer."

I was very disappointed that there was no mention in the throne speech about opening up access to our educational system. There was no mention at all about making our educational and social services systems more sensitive to the needs of our diverse society. This is important, because the NDP has a way of speaking for all people. I think that's all they do; they just speak. They take no action. As a matter of fact, as my colleague mentioned, I presume if you're a card-carrying member you may just get an in like Dale Martin—a nice appointment itself.

1600

A recent study suggested that only 6% of blacks in this city of ours, Toronto, go on to obtain a university degree. A local area high school notes that in the past four years, of 300 graduates, only one black youth has gone on to complete a university degree. It has been estimated that the dropout rate among blacks in Toronto high schools may be as high as 50% to 60%.

Where is the commitment? Where is that commitment by this government to look at the education system to make sure they all have an opportunity to get an education, that the children of our province will have the skills to compete for those jobs the government is promising them under employment equity? There's no mention at all about the need to create an environment that will allow employment equity to work. Not the least of this is the absence of any real initiative to create jobs, any jobs at all.

There was nothing about how this government will ensure that the physically challenged have fair access to public transportation. Indeed, it is interesting to note that until recently, the employment equity commissioner's office itself did not have a TDD line or wheelchair-accessible washrooms. They were counter to progress in that line.

Beryl Potter, a Scarboroughite who has worked diligently for the disabled for years—

**Interjection:** Many years.

**Mr Curling:** Many, many years. She was promptly—actually, we won't call it fired, but any funding so she can be operative or be of service was discontinued. That may be because Beryl Potter ran for a party other than the NDP. I'm not suggesting that: I'm just wondering and speculating; I wonder if that was the reason. But the job she was

doing was extremely important to advance the cause of the disabled.

We hear over and over from this government about the need for mandatory timetables and plans and, sure, we don't want to use the word "quotas" at all, because that's bad. What we don't hear is any sort of creative solutions. Why not? For example, offer tax incentives for businesses to make their workplaces more accessible to the physically challenged. We need solutions that work, not old rhetoric or textbook formulas or more government bureaucracy. We need solutions for people.

If you look around at this government or the bureaucracy that has been established, we have more bureaucracies looking out for the disadvantaged and the discouraged and people who are being discriminated against. If you look there, what do you see? A backlog of cases that have not been addressed.

If you look at the Human Rights Commission, the minister in her seat here told us there were no backlogs. Then later on she said: "Yes, there is a backlog. I've got to put in some money and more staffing to deal with that backlog." Today she's admitting there is a backlog. She admitted even more. She said, "I will be in this House every month to report on the status of where we are in this backlog." I haven't heard a peep out of her about that.

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** Now the reporting is in a backlog.

**Mr Curling:** As my colleague says, not only that is in a backlog now, but the reporting is in a backlog. For months I have had not one report from that minister about the situation. I'm telling you that those people who are waiting two or three years for their cases to be heard are being denied justice.

Now here we are running around the province saying we're going to have employment equity and everyone will get a job and everybody will be treated fairly, and in the Human Rights Commission they are being denied a hearing. I had a case where a gentleman phoned the human rights office and, in his awkward English and halting way and frightened manner at being discriminated against, explained his case to the officer on the phone. Right there and then the officer stated, "I don't think you have a case." Is that the way you're going to eliminate people so their cases cannot be heard; say "You don't have a case," so you don't have a backlog? Those are situations I would like the minister to look at very closely.

The Workers' Compensation Board is backlogged, the OMB is backlogged, all those things; the Advocacy Act that you're bringing in too. Sure we're going to answer all these questions. We're going to create more problems in this province. The capabilities of this government are lacking.

We need an effective Human Rights Commission, a proactive Human Rights Commission, a Human Rights Commission that is given the resources to fulfil its mandate. Without this, any employment equity legislation brought in by this government, I can tell you—I am no prophet, but it will fail. It will not work. It's no use to make statements and put all these bureaucracies in place, high-paid bureaucrats sitting there with titles, moving chairs around, getting



nice drapes, when the individual who must be served is still waiting in a backlog to be heard: "I've been denied a job because of my colour, because I'm black" or "because I'm a woman" or "because I'm disabled."

The bureaucrats are shaking up and the minister is here making statements every day that we have very effective employment equity. But we've got a backlog. We're busy buying chairs and curtains and we're busy trying to find nice offices. The people are starving and being denied, and their children are being denied education. I think it's time we stopped talking and started doing something.

We are here on this side to help you have the most effective employment equity program. It's about access: no special treatment for women, no special treatment for blacks or minorities, no special treatment for the disabled. What they need is fair treatment. It's no use to say we have employment equity and advertise in the *Globe* and *Mail* to make sure we reach everyone, because, you see, what business entrepreneurs today need is productivity. We're not in a very productive province. We brag about how we're number one and we're the best and what have you, and we spend a lot of money getting all these things in place, but the results are rather poor.

We need to sensitize and educate the business community. As I said, companies like Omnibus Consulting are doing jobs like that. The business community wants the best. Maybe that disabled individual who cannot negotiate because there are no ramps could produce better than some individuals there if treated fairly, given a chance. Having arrived inside that business, they need to know they are able to go to the washroom. Business needs to be sensitive to all that.

I know all my colleagues would like to speak. There's much more I could say, but I'll just say how disappointed I was that this was not properly addressed in the throne speech, and how disappointed I am that they did not address an issue like Sunday shopping, if you want to minimize it and call it Sunday shopping; that they did not address the confusion and cost to the municipalities. The vacillating, the shifting: One minute the Premier says, "It's a moral decision in order that there's a day of rest, and I, the Premier, believe this day should be the day of rest, but of course nurses and some people who are tourists can do their thing." One minute it's morally right and one minute it's morally wrong. Now he has decided to change his mind. I hear some movement, with him saying: "Maybe we'll look at Sunday shopping again, and maybe we'll introduce it. It depends on what the people are saying." I just want to warn him and the Solicitor General that if maybe six months down the road someone says, "I don't want Sunday shopping," and they decide to change back again, that is not the way to govern.

1610

I will indicate again that I am extremely disappointed. I raise the issue of the Ontario Provincial Police, the lack of funds, the lack of staffing, especially in the north, in Kenora and places like that which don't have the full force of police. But what happens? The Treasurer sees fit to remove them from where the need is, bring them to Sutton Place—overtime, of course—fly them back and forth to

Kenora and other areas, paying to secure the document they call the budget, which I am not excited is coming forward; I don't think there are any answers to any of the problems we have here.

In conclusion—I am sure I have gone on for more than the 15 minutes I had intended; I wanted, as I said, to touch on other areas, on the race relations area, which time will not allow—I want to say how disappointed I am, how much I had hoped the recession would have shaken this government into some reality of addressing the problems. But they have not done so.

I am anticipating, of course, that as soon as the employment equity and other bills come forward, we will have a better chance to debate and we will make the employment bill the best we have ever seen, not for the NDP, not for the Liberals, not for the Conservatives, but for the people of Ontario.

There is one warning I would like to give the NDP. Maybe there is a solution. There was a study done, *Access to Trades and Professions in Ontario*, which I think is a guiding force to show that we have the human resources to do the job. It was commissioned by the Liberal Party and the Liberal government of the day. It is with the government now to be presented. I hope they can implement the recommendations that were put forward in that report.

Mr Speaker, thank you very much for allowing me the time. I am sure they have questions.

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** I'd like to take the two moments allowed to make some comments on the speech just delivered by my colleague the member for Scarborough North. I do so with a sense of pride. I do not believe there is another member in the House who can speak with the conviction and with the knowledge my colleague has in regard to the issue of race relations and all the ancillary issues that follow from that particular point.

My colleague today has spent a number of moments pointing out to the government the promises its members made when they were here in opposition and the promises they made during the last election campaign, now some 18 months ago, and even some of the promises they made while in office. We heard my colleague say the minister responsible for the Ontario Human Rights Commission had promised us, all the members of the Legislature, and through us all the people of this province, speedy and deliberate decisions from the complaints that had been filed. We were promised, as my colleague said, regular updates on what was happening in that portfolio. As my colleague said in his speech, even the regular updates are now discontinued and we have to go about other means in order to find out what is going on with that portfolio.

I think that is sad. I know my colleague the member for Scarborough North is not going to let the matter rest. We are going to remind this government of the promises it made, not so much for any political party but, as my colleague said, for the people of the province.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** I want to comment today on some of the statements made by the



member for Scarborough North. It is true that when his housing legislation came down there were many people opposed to it, and rightfully so. It wasn't good legislation, in my opinion. But I think never in his wildest dreams, nor the public's wildest dreams, could this government have gone so far off track with what it stood for and in fact wrote down over the last campaign.

I am reminded today of the comments the Minister of Housing made about the federal government grants to co-operative housing. I believe this government promised some 20,000 units of cooperative housing in a year. They are painfully shy of that number, embarrassingly shy. They no longer even discuss that particular promise, along with many others. It goes a long way in showing and proving that when in opposition, this government offered glib, one-sentence answers to the most complicated and pressing problems. Today those glib, one-sentence answers are (a) leaving them in an awkward situation, having promised things they couldn't deliver on, and (b) they are discovering very violently that those glib, one-sentence answers were just that, and that we face very complex and real problems today.

It is somewhat humorous to sit on this side of the House and watch them as they wallow about trying to resolve the issues in the economy today. It is somewhat humorous to see them try to apply those glib, one-sentence answers to government, which they can't seem to do. It is equally humorous to watch them plummet in the polls to a point where it appears they could fall right off the face of the earth come next election, which I would find quite humorous because I don't personally regard their political style and substance as very much.

I would like to congratulate the member for Scarborough North. It was an interesting speech and I think it was very enlightening.

**Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South):** I will take a couple of seconds to touch on a couple of issues that were raised by the honourable member from the official opposition during his opportunity to comment on the throne speech.

I appreciate some of the comments the former minister made in regard to where this government is going on employment equity. For that I thank you, because far too often in this House we get into the situation of really getting into the role of what sometimes happens with opposition. We were there as well, so I'm not sitting on any laurels in regard to trying to find negative things.

I want to point out one thing, though. One of the messages the member gave was talking about the whole question of integrity. The member should think back a little while, as that integrity is not something either the Liberal or the Conservative parties have in any great amount within their own past history. I would just remember that.

The point I'm trying to make is that there have been some assertions made in this House by both parties. A member touched on it in the debate on the throne speech in regard to the appointment process within Ontario. I remind the member that the appointment process has been opened up since the New Democratic government came

to office. There are more people being appointed now from within the communities who do not come from any political affiliation.

I can speak from my own experience within my own riding of Cochrane South. Many people from the communities of Timmins, Iroquois Falls and Matheson have come forward and asked to be appointed on committees, those places where they qualify, where they have the experience and background to be able to serve on those committees. It has not been a majority of New Democrats appointed to those particular committees and various boards out there. That is the truth.

I think if you take the time to look at the numbers you'll find that what the opposition is doing is very misleading. Yes, we will appoint New Democrats if there are New Democrats out there who want to be appointed and have the opportunity to do so in the specialty, but it is not just them. It has been cleaned up since we came to government.

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**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I know the member for Scarborough North has various views on these issues that are extremely important. One of the issues I'm interested in, that I was looking for in the speech, is my concern about the movement of the Ministry of Transportation to the city of St Catharines. As you will know, the last government, under the Minister of Government Services, Chris Ward, announced that the 1,400 jobs would be moving to St Catharines. It was a decision that was hailed by the people of the city of St Catharines because we have been impacted adversely by a downturn in the economy; we will have lost some 3,000 jobs in the automotive industry by 1995, and many other smaller plant closings have been announced. So we really need those jobs coming to St Catharines.

I implore the Minister of Government Services and the Chairman of Management Board to make that announcement as soon as possible to move it to the city of St Catharines. I realize it is a commitment that was made by a previous government, but I think I have heard from this government that it intends to follow through on the announcement of the previous government and to have those jobs moved to St Catharines. I will be one who will be hailing that decision to continue the policy of the previous government if this government does it.

A brief word on the last intervention by a government member about the system being different. If there is any difference in the system, I can tell you the result is not different. My objection is not to the NDP appointing its own people. They are doing it right across the province; New Democrats left and right are being appointed. They won the election, and they're entitled to do that. My objection is to the pretence that somehow there is a different system and that somehow they are different from any other political party. If they want to appoint them, that's fine, but let's not pretend. Let's not be hypocritical, and I know they wouldn't want to be about this whole issue.

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** One of the things that concerns me is that they are starting to believe



their own rhetoric. The problem I have is that they sat there and I tried my best, and it was not without great effort, to make it as objective as possible, but immediately the government became defensive. Even with that kind of an attitude, I still stand firm in offering advice, if it's acceptable, in a very objective manner, but immediately they say that it is not so.

I quoted things recently about how the appointment system had worked; you were supposed to put it through the process. None of those things have happened. I see what happened as a kind of smoke-and-mirrors type of situation. The former opposition leader, and now the Premier, used to say, "It's all smoke and mirrors." I think that is what we have got from them.

We have an opportunity, and it's a time when we should not be involved in party quarrels about who gets jobs. There are thousands and thousands, maybe millions of people in Ontario who are out of a job, whose dreams have been shattered because of this recession. The worst thing that could happen is that their dreams are further shattered by an incompetent government, a government that would not see fit to conduct itself in a moral way so that people could accept some of the tough times. People don't want any handouts. They want a government with vision, a government with direction, and they want an opposition that can be objective.

As we go into committee and as we debate this throne speech, I want the government side to see us as offering solutions to some rather difficult problems we find ourselves in. Don't compound the issue more with some of the rhetoric that you put forward each day.

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** I too am pleased to participate for a few moments in the debate on the speech from the throne. I guess I was more disappointed than pleased with most of what I heard in the speech from the throne as His Honour, our new Lieutenant Governor, read the program and the anticipated schedule that the government of Ontario intends to follow in the next period of time.

One thing that was very disappointing to me, Mr Speaker, and I know you're from eastern Ontario as I am, is that eastern Ontario was not ever mentioned once in the entire half-hour presentation in the speech from the throne as His Honour read it. That certainly disappointed me, because eastern Ontario, if anywhere in this province, is suffering more than anywhere else regarding the economy and regarding unemployment.

The city of Cornwall has had closure upon closure, and I was pleased when the Minister of Government Services did visit the city of Cornwall and did confirm that they will proceed within the next several years in the construction of a provincial building, somewhat less elaborate than had been announced by the previous government. I can assure you, in spite of the fact that this building will not be located in the riding I represent, it will certainly impact very directly in creating jobs during construction and certainly, and hopefully, creating employment once this building has been erected. Certainly that was not in the speech from the throne. The Minister of Government Services was in Corn-

wall several weeks ago, and I thank him for confirming that announcement.

However, getting back to the speech from the throne, agriculture, it was recognized in that very same document, is in deep difficulty, and we need not be reminded of that.

The government of Ontario in the last seven years has literally doubled the spending, from some \$27 billion in 1985, which was the entire budget, to some \$53 billion that will be spent this fiscal year. That is almost a doubling of the entire expenditure of the government of Ontario in a period of seven years. Statistics will show that these increases are somewhat beyond a 10% annual increase, compounded, and it is way more than any other government in Canada and indeed more than the federal government.

We sometimes wonder where all this money has gone, because effectively the previous government, the Liberals under Premier Peterson, increased taxes on some 33 different occasions. They also increased the deficit while they were in power by some \$10 billion. This does not look at by how much the unfunded liability of the Workers' Compensation Board has grown; it's now beyond \$10 billion. The deficit Ontario Hydro now has is beyond \$30 billion. And of course the federal deficit is all our responsibility as well.

Can you imagine, Me Speaker, in reality, when some \$400-plus billion is the deficit at the federal level, projected in Ontario, when this government is near the end of its mandate, at somewhere over \$80 billion, Ontario Hydro at \$30-plus billion and workers' compensation with an unfunded liability of \$10 billion?

There is only one taxpayer—some of them sit in here—and they are the people of Ontario along with the people of the rest of Canada. But the solution is that government spending is out of control, and we are now going through a tax revolution, cross-border shopping. I come from an area that's probably hit as hard as any area by cross-border shopping. It was not addressed at all. I have stood in my place in this Legislature on a number of occasions and have suggested that indeed we cannot continue increasing the so-called sin taxes, alcohol, cigarettes and gasoline. We have reached the point of diminishing return.

I spoke with a group of tobacco producers last week, and they cited the fact that the federal government has decided not to impose the \$8 a carton tax on exported cigarettes and tobacco. The province of New Brunswick has reduced by 25% its tax on tobacco. We're finding now that tobacco producers—a standard bale of tobacco normally sells for about \$100, give or take quality and what have you. Do you know what they're being offered on the black market? About \$700 and \$800 for the same bale of tobacco.

Something is wrong. Something is very definitely wrong when this starts to happen. We are forcing some of our so-called honest, clean-living Ontarians into the black market. The cigarette counters, they tell me in small stores, now have to be barred much like areas where liquor is sold because it got to be such a valuable commodity. We are reaching a point where we have saturated the ability of people to pay.



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We are hurting our tourist industry and driving our people to the United States, particularly, in the area where I reside, to a place called Akwesasne where our native people live where there are no taxes. Therefore, fuel is exactly half price, cigarettes sell at somewhere in the area of 20% to 25% of the regular cost of cigarettes here in Ontario, and certainly alcohol is very much cheaper.

These are the catalysts that bring our God-fearing, honest Ontarians to sometimes think about doing things that are not exactly according to the law. I think that is wrong. This government is encouraging it and I implore the Treasurer to look at his expenditures, to cut his expenditures and also to at least look at limiting the taxes and not increasing the sin taxes, because we're already at the point of diminishing return.

In eastern Ontario the new labour reform law is of great concern to most people. We get a number of newspapers at our place and it is amazing that the Minister of Labour and our Premier have told us that this labour reform law would be a vehicle to get both employers and employees together.

I must tell you what is happening in the area I represent, including the city of Cornwall adjacent to the area I very proudly represent. We're getting letters to the editor by the dozen, by the hundreds, and we find that labour leaders are attacking employers, employers are attacking labour leaders and we are still being told that the legislation under the amended Labour Relations Act will bring these people together.

I am afraid the division and the vacuum between the two will be so great that it will be almost insurmountable in sending a signal at the worst possible of times, when our economy is stagnating and our capital investment by business is very iffy at best. This government confirmed again, in the speech from the throne His Honour read here a week ago today, that it is going to forge ahead with its labour reform laws.

I found it very interesting when the federal civil service was on strike not long ago, in the fall. At some point, people who belonged to a union crossed the picket line and they were not, for whatever reasons, in favour of picketing and withholding their labour from their employer, the federal government. As we know, the labour legislation to force these people back to work occurred, but what happened following that was not very much advertised. Some of the large unions decided they would chastise and punish some of the workers who crossed the picket line and indeed they did. They're not going to represent some of these people for two, three and up to five years, but they are still going to take their union dues. I find that a little bit strange because that is taking money without representation.

That was interesting, Mr Speaker, because do you know what I find now? I find some of these people who belong to these unions coming to me and saying, "Who will protect me as a card-carrying member of a union against my union?" There is no one who will be protecting this union member against his union. This government feels unions can do no wrong and therefore no one needs to keep an eye on them, whether they are democratic or not. We have many horror stories about unions, though we

have less now than there used to be. However, the legislation that is coming forth will not protect a card-carrying union member from his big union, and that is wrong. As a matter of fact, the entire package is wrong, because it's coming at the wrong time and sending the wrong message to the people who may be considering investing in our province.

Our economic officer in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry has told me specifically of three corporate entities that were coming from Quebec and had made arrangements to come to Ontario. One reason only, the reform of the labour law, has now put their move on hold, and if the labour law is proceeded with, they will not come to Ontario.

**Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre):** Name names.

**Mr Villeneuve:** I am simply stating what's been told to me.

Mr Oliver, a very high-profile union leader in the city of Cornwall, has attacked—of course he has attacked, and these are the very same people who tell us the labour reform law will bring employers and employees closer together. It better start happening because it is going in the wrong direction totally.

I want to talk a little bit more about how this new labour law will impact on agriculture and the processors of food. This government can legislate a lot of things but it cannot legislate when a crop is ready to be harvested, nor can it legislate the weather, and thank goodness for that. I do not think we will see people picketing in February, March or April, whenever there is no crop growing anywhere, but the timeliness will be that we will see pickets come up in July, August and September, just before whatever crops are being processed at these processing plants.

If the tomato processors don't fill up their tanks with tomato paste when the tomatoes are coming off the field, I'm sorry, but there'll be no product to work with all winter. What do you think will happen to that company? Of course they'll go south. They have no choice. They will be forced—have been forced—by the government of Ontario into that kind of situation.

Another example is the production of seed corn. It is pretty labour-intensive, because corn has to be detassled.

**Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent):** The detasslers are all going to be unionized, right?

**Mr Villeneuve:** Exactly; a very strong possibility. I think they understand, Mr Speaker, it's just that they're blind to the fact of what will happen.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order.

**Mr Villeneuve:** I am pleased they are reacting, Mr Speaker. I think maybe they've heard this before, but they're whipped into going in one direction, the direction of the Minister of Labour, the Premier and a fellow called Mr White, who is above all this. His name is Bob White. There are times when I'm sure he's probably closer to being the Premier and calling the shots than the Premier himself, but that's a story for another time.

Bob White hasn't suffered too much flak. I heard between the lines, when the Lieutenant Governor was reading



the speech, that the Premier was almost saying, "Help, we're not sure where to go." We don't have to call Bob White "the honourable" yet, but he is pulling the strings and calling the shots. The situation that is occurring here is that he does not have to suffer the very real flak that the people who sit here have to suffer, yet he sits above all this and pulls the strings on everyone.

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** It doesn't seem fair, does it?

**Mr Villeneuve:** It's not fair. I'm glad you understand that. The honourable member for—he's not in his seat.

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** He's one of those Durham guys.

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**Mr Villeneuve:** His name is also White, but I don't think he's related to the real powerhouse in Ontario. That's a story for another day.

We go back to the production of seed corn. The grain industry in this province, in this country and indeed across the world is in deep trouble. I'm a corn producer. A unit of corn, which will plant about three acres, has been costing about \$100, so it's \$33 an acre for the seed. Imagine if the cost of the detassling—it's pretty labour-intensive—went up by \$1 an hour. Seed corn would probably go up by a third in an industry that is getting lower prices, when adjusted for inflation, than it was in the Dirty Thirties, the depth of the Depression.

This is the kind of legislation that will occur if the labour law reform is proceeded with and the people not listened to. I'm very concerned about the listening angle, because I am convinced this government may pay lipservice. But in the end the draft, as we have seen it, will come forth and unions will be king. It will not be good for Ontario's economy.

I go back to a situation that concerns a lot of people in Ontario. It's the Ontario Provincial Police. They have cried for help now for a period of time. I want to commend the present government for setting up community policing, something that was started some eight years ago by a government previous to the previous one, a Tory government here in Ontario. They have proceeded with this. I believe my community now has three community policing stations or offices. That's appreciated. But what's happening is that our local OPP detachment offices do not have sufficient manpower to do the policing the way they know it has to be done, and they're crying for help.

This government, wherever it finds the money, and it will have to find the money in that area, will have to support the Ontario Provincial Police because law and order, in my opinion, is an issue close to the very top. The economy I think is top, and law and order is a close second. We will have to maintain a good police force in order to maintain law and order.

Pollution, as I referred to in the two-minute reply to one of my colleagues, was touched on but not addressed in a very serious manner. I want to quote from a study that was done recently. It's in the March 28 *Globe and Mail*. It says, "Toronto Air Quality Worst of Six Cities." That concerns me because this government came in as the cham-

pion of the environment. I'm not sure where the championship has gone, but there have been very few positive moves towards the environment.

"Vancouver had the cleanest air of the six cities, followed by Montreal, Atlanta, Boston and Chicago," and finally Toronto. There's a message there. We know that in the summertime in the city of Toronto the pollution count goes very high. There are times where it borders on restricting vehicular access and emissions in the city of Toronto.

What we have here is proof positive that our city, our metropolis in Ontario, has the worst polluted air of all six cities studied on the North American continent. Some of those are American cities. We're pretty good at pointing an accusing finger at the Americans, but what I find interesting is that the Americans, for more than 10 years now, have had considerably less greenhouse-causing emissions out of their vehicles than we have had in Ontario. The reason why they've done that is they've gone to a different mix in their fuel. They've gone to an ethanol-blended fuel.

I would've certainly liked to hear from this government in its speech from the throne that one of its initiatives would have been that by 1993 or whatever, like it did with leaded gas, "We will eliminate the octane enhancer MMT and we will be promoting and indeed using ethanol as the blend, a much cleaner-burning oxygenated fuel that we know would reduce the greenhouse effect and the pollution index in the city of Toronto by some 35% to 40%." That would be a really big step in the right direction.

As a matter of fact, while the speech from the throne spent considerable time finding fault with Ottawa, this government is going in the same direction regarding spend, spend, spend. At least Ottawa, in its budget, reduced the tax on ethanol-blended fuel. It's an 8.5-cent tax, and the tax will be reduced by almost 1 cent a litre for ethanol-based fuel. That is a positive. That will make the production of ethanol in Ontario very economical for more reasons than I will mention today, but some of them will be: Create a new market for grain corn. It will reduce environmental pollution, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide, by some 40%, it will provide employment in those areas where the process will occur, and it will provide a material, a 28% protein concentrate distiller's grain product, which livestock will use, and our dairy animals, our chickens, beef and pork can use this. We are not taking anything away from the food chain at all. All we are doing here is win, win, win.

This government must move quickly to reduce pollution if indeed it is serious, and sometimes I have to wonder if it is serious. We have this technology. We don't need to study it. We do know in the US they've been using ethanol for some 10 years now and that every day approximately 2 million bushels of corn get manufactured into ethanol to reduce pollution and support the production and price of grains, which are very seriously depressed right now.

I simply touch on that. I think that if this government is going to lead the way, it has to simply make a statement that all its government vehicles will be mandated and will use only an ethanol-blended fuel by such and such a time. That will send a clear message. We now have Sunoco and United Co-operatives of Ontario going together where 19



service stations in southwestern Ontario will be selling a blended ethanol fuel mixture starting in early May. This government must get ahead and say: "Look, we're promoting it. We're going to set up production units, and certainly eastern Ontario, for many reasons, is a prime location for several of these production units. We are going to be producing a material, ethanol, that will reduce pollution and that indeed will create employment and stimulate the economy."

The farm tax rebate, while I'm on the subject of agriculture, has been very much bandied around. The government is saying that it's looking at all areas of spending. I will tell you that the farm tax rebate was originally initiated to make the taxation system fair, and that in order to make it fair it was unfair for farmers to pay school tax on their farm buildings and their farm land. That is why initially the farm tax rebate came in: to simply render some equity to the taxation system. What we now have is a situation where the government is making producers in agriculture very nervous because the \$160-million rebate, which is simply bringing equity and fairness to the system, is under attack.

The honourable Minister of Agriculture told me, in reply to a question last week, that this year it's safe. I appreciate that, but he certainly didn't go into the future any more than that. I think we need to emphasize to the Treasurer that the Liberals did suffer from trying to play around with the farm tax rebate, and you know they suffered politically.

I have to talk about my friends in the Liberal Party. When they called the election back in 1990, they were sure, and I think basically everyone in this Legislature was sure, that they would continue to form the government. Sometimes we don't give the people of Ontario credit; we sometimes think they forget, but they didn't forget that 33 tax increases occurred and the deficit went up by \$10 billion when Ontario was going through the most buoyant economic times of all.

Lo and behold, come September 6, 1990, Mr Peterson himself was gone, and a lot of his colleagues. Indeed, the government that sits here today is there by default. That seems to be something they haven't quite realized yet, but they're there by default. I even have some friends who say: "It was a protest vote. I didn't think they had a hope in Hades of getting to power."

1650

**Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent):** Yes, they got a haze.

**Mr Villeneuve:** Hades. This is what occurred, and of course it surprised Mr Peterson and his government and the present government. Everybody got surprised. Even we were surprised.

**Mr Hope:** You were lucky to get that many seats.

**Mr Villeneuve:** No. As a matter of fact, before the tactics, the Tories would've been very close to being the government. But something happened during the advertising near the end of the campaign, as you may well recall, Mr Speaker, that—

**Mr Hope:** The bus broke down, right?

**Mr Villeneuve:** No, the bus ran very well, but something happened that made our popularity drop a bit. We still wound up with 20 excellent, capable members, as you witness in this Legislature on a daily basis.

**Mr David Winninger (London South):** When are we going to see them?

**Mr Villeneuve:** You're fortunate; you see them on a daily basis.

To go back, sometimes repentant sinners—I compare the Liberals a little to that, because right now they are very repentant; they know where they went wrong. At least they tell us they know where they went wrong, but we're still not sure where the right trail is. I certainly compliment the new leader, who has done yeoman's work prior to being leader, and of course continues doing that.

**Mr Winninger:** Yeowomen's work.

**Mr Villeneuve:** Yeowomen's work; whatever. However, we have to give the public of Ontario credit, because they remembered some of the things that were a little bit nasty. When the election was called in 1990, the Premier thought he could soothe all that over in a nice, warm summer election with barbeques and friendship, but they didn't forget. And they will not forget what this government is bringing forth now in the central portion of its mandate, this labour reform. I beg them, and this is above politics: The labour reform must be changed. You cannot bring in this type of labour reform at this time.

The province of Quebec—I was there on the weekend—is definitely changing its labour law. They agree that what we see coming out of Ontario is nothing short of a disaster.

Mr, Speaker, I promised to wind up by 5 o'clock. I have five more minutes.

Supply management for agriculture: I am very pleased that the Minister of Agriculture and Food, the federal Minister of Agriculture and all of us are working together, because that's got our farming community very concerned. Supply management in the dairy and feather industry has not created problems locally or internationally. Yes, we can adjust the system; it needs to be adjusted. But it does not need to be thrown out the window. I personally strongly endorse and support supply management. We need to update it and bring it into the modern era. In some instances, it has been going for more than 25 years without major adjustments. It needs to be looked at, but certainly does not need to be thrown out. I can assure you that I and our party are very supportive of GATT negotiations, continuing to recognize article XI and indeed strengthening article XI.

Unemployment in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, as I touched on earlier, is a major factor and a major problem. We must start having some good news in eastern Ontario where instead of closures we will have industries moving in. Labour law reform will not allow that. We must change that anticipated legislation to make it a little more palatable all around.

I have many other subjects I could touch on of very great concern to myself and the people I represent. However, I promised my colleagues that I would go for half an hour and I am very close to that half-hour. I appreciate



very much the opportunity of addressing His Honour's speech from the throne and I look forward to hearing the debate from other members of the Legislature.

**Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South):** I don't know where to start. A couple of things bother me in what the member was talking about. With regard to the Ontario Labour Relations Act, the province of Quebec has had this legislation in place for years. We already know what's happened, that they've recognized that the labour legislation has done more in Quebec in the past 14 years to draw labour and management together to work in consultation with each other, to find some of the solutions to the very tough problems they have in their economy. The member knows that and I think it is somewhat, I would say, misleading to say otherwise. But put it on a billboard and maybe we'll take a look at the—

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Order, please. Would you please withdraw this word.

**Mr Bisson:** I'm sorry. I withdraw "misleading."

The other thing is that the member raised a question with regard to who's going to represent the worker in the event the union doesn't do its job. There are already provisions within the labour act. You know that. Section 68 of the labour act provides that if such a thing happens, indeed there is a mechanism to make sure the worker has the rights within the Labour Relations Act that is presently in place.

I just want to ask one thing: Who protects the worker—that is the real issue here—when the employer decides to play hanky-panky on a picket line or decides to play hanky-panky with the worker's rights?

I come from a community where we were devastated by a very large strike at the beginning of my term, for some eight months. Not to take any sides on who's right or who's wrong, we've seen the effect of what could happen if you allow a picket line to get to the point of not being able to find ways of giving workers some rights, because at the end of the day, we know from the experiences we've seen that in the past employers have on many occasions basically worked against workers' rights.

I know of places up in northwestern Ontario, where I just came from this weekend, where there are workers who don't even have potable water to drink. The employers are providing water that is basically coming from the effluent of human beings. I am not saying that's the case all over, but we have to recognize that there are problems out there.

I don't have enough time. I would've liked to have gotten into another issue.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** The member always offers some very relevant remarks to the Legislative Assembly and sometimes he doesn't have time to mention all the things he would no doubt like to mention.

He probably wanted to mention the needed funding for the drug and alcohol treatment centre in St Catharines that this government has not seen fit so far to provide. This, of course, is the aftercare program which will be eliminated as a result of the cutback in government funding; people who have been rehabilitated in the past and, frankly, peo-

ple who have looked to the NDP government as a new government that used to be interested in these things, who were hopeful there would be funds provided. That has not been the case. I hope the government repents, as it did with the CAT scanner, and finally puts one in the Niagara Peninsula and provides the funds in this case. That would be something I'd be prepared to compliment the government on.

The second thing I would like to mention is that I have many friends in the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, like Malcolm Buchanan, as one good example, and Margaret Wilson—these are people I've respected over the years—Jim Head and Rod Albert and Mr Larry French, who is up in the gallery. All of these people are wondering now why this government is asking for concessions on the labour contracts; why the Minister of Education is suggesting, through not providing sufficient funding to the boards of education, that they open up the contracts and grant concessions.

The minister doesn't come out and say this. The government says, "We're opposed to wage and price controls, and it's awful when people propose that." But by providing only 1% to the boards of education, they are in essence saying to the members of the boards of education, "All you're supposed to provide in any increase is 1%."

I am quite surprised by this and I know that Malcolm Buchanan will want me to raise this issue, and I have done so this afternoon.

1700

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** I would like to respond to one of the points the member made, and that was in regard to changes or reforms to the Ontario Labour Relations Act making things particularly difficult in these economic times. I would like to remind the member opposite and also the House as a whole that the backbone of the auto industry and of the Canadian Auto Workers was formed in 1934 in my riding in the midst of a depression, in the midst of the most difficult times.

Those workers were opposed fiercely by the then Liberal government, by Hepburn's Hussars, who came into Oshawa, mounted on the backs of their rhetoric, trying to defeat their effort to realize a decent standard of living for themselves, and their efforts have resulted in a decent standard of living in the city of Oshawa but also have not in any way interfered with the productivity of the auto industry in our community. That was the outset of the CAW in this country, and that is a proud history.

In the midst of very difficult economic times we can move forward, and there is no reason that now is a time to move backwards in terms of labour legislation, as the member opposite would suggest, but rather fairness and cooperation have to go hand in hand with economic recovery.

I think those concepts are essential. We shouldn't forget our background. We shouldn't forget the heroes of the labour movement, people I knew, like Tom Simmons and Art Schultz, who struggled in our community to represent and to ensure that our members were well looked after.



**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I am very pleased to sum up by congratulating and commending the member for S-D-G & East Grenville for, once again, his fine presentation to the House this afternoon, and particularly the effort he has put into the GATT negotiation issue over the last number of months. The cooperation he has shown the government I think has been commendable and he has shown great leadership. I just wanted to mention that.

With respect to a couple of the comments that came from the opposite side in response to his speech, I was rather disappointed by the member for Durham Centre. He talks about the issue of past and grievous injustices that were maybe done 50 or 60 years ago, but I fail to see the relevance to our situation today with respect to these labour laws.

Second, I am sorry the member for Cochrane South has not stuck around. He is not here at the moment, but he talked about the issue of the Quebec labour laws. I didn't understand why companies would leave Quebec because of the stringent labour laws there and come here, but now, as my colleague has indicated, there are companies that aren't going to come as a result of the labour laws that have been discussed in this province. I expect that in the future we're going to see more companies that are looking outside of Ontario as a result of these labour laws.

I hope to have some time later on this afternoon, thanks to the generous time my colleague has given me, and I will finish at that point.

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** I want to thank my colleagues from all sides of the House. The member for Cochrane South seems to have some trouble understanding that, yes, we do have concrete evidence of some companies that were in Quebec and basically want to get away from the labour law. You were with me on the weekend when we discussed the construction industry in particular in Quebec, where we have unionized and non-unionized, and right now in the non-unionized, because the houses come up so much cheaper, less cost, just as good workmanship, that is a major problem in Quebec and they're trying to address it.

To the member for St Catharines, I appreciate his participation. I really was not aware of the medical centre in his riding and it's very nice that he brought it up.

To the member for Durham Centre, yes, you talk about the Dirty Thirties when unions needed to be created, but is that the same city that voted, "We will shut down the General Motors plant because we do not want to work that one hour of overtime," and Bob White had to go over there and straighten them up? That same man is really defeating the argument he brings forth, because unions have now outgrown their usefulness and indeed are creating a situation that is almost intolerable economically.

**Mr Villeneuve:** I know it is hurting some of these high-profile union people who now sit in this Legislature, but those are the facts.

Interjections.

To my colleague the member for Wellington, I appreciate the accolades. He represents an area where GATT deci-

sions are very important and I know he has been very supportive of me. Thank you.

**Mr David Winninger (London South):** I am pleased to join in the debate today on the throne speech and I am also pleased to follow the member before me. Hopefully, during the course of my remarks, good sense will return to this chamber.

The throne speech, I believe, sets forth a vision for Ontario of what we can be, what we can aspire towards not just until the next election, but a vision of sustainable development that will endure as we approach the millennium and enter the 21st century.

In the past, Canada's cheap raw materials and close proximity to the US markets have guaranteed our country a high standard of living. We supported our basic manufacturing industries, like steel and automobile manufacturing, through high tariffs on imported goods and due to our need for foreign capital and the need of other countries to source low-cost supplies, foreign ownership grew. Often branch plants were established to surmount our tariff barriers for consumer and industrial goods.

Our high standard of living was maintained rather effortlessly without productivity, efficiency and innovation. However, we now find ourselves competing in a global economy in which the hallmarks are productivity, efficiency and competitiveness.

Our real gross domestic product has been declining over the last two years in Ontario after two decades of almost continual growth. To flourish, our business sector, as the throne speech strongly supports, must itself restructure and adapt to changing circumstances. We need to master new skills, rather than compete on the basis of low labour and product costs. We need to continually renew our products, our systems, our factories and our workers. This development in fact was well documented in the report from the Premier's Council entitled *Competing In The New Global Economy*.

As we move towards higher value-added products, more engineering, automation and robotics will be required. The throne speech promises to build towards a more dynamic future with an economic renewal plan and investment strategy appropriate to these times. The manner in which we educate and train our workers will have to be revitalized to ensure that education is relevant to the work world we know today and that skills development is tied to our market needs.

As the report *Vision 2000: Quality and Opportunity* put it, we need to "ensure that Ontario has the skilled and adaptable workforce necessary to prosper in the global economy, while contributing to the development of individuals as informed, productive and socially responsible citizens."

In Canada we spend more on education, I believe, than any other industrialized nation, yet one in three drops out from our educational system, and three in 10 lack basic literacy skills. So this challenge requires cooperation between all the major partners: business, labour, government and communities of interest.

The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board is a good vehicle, composed of business, labour, educators and trainers



and community interests, as an autonomous body to reform our provincial training system to achieve a highly skilled adaptable workforce, which will in turn attract investment to Ontario. Better coordination of training in the schools and workplaces is essential to smooth the transition from school to work, from job to job and from skill to skill.

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Our prosperity is not based solely, however, on a well-paid, highly educated and trained workforce; it also depends on equitable social participation by women, the disabled, aboriginals and visible minorities. Despite the economic downturn, 63% of people surveyed last October by the Globe and Mail CROP poll said that having different races in Canada adds to the good of this country.

Training should be accessible to the unemployed and those on public assistance. Initiatives already well under way to deliver affordable, accessible, quality child care will have to continue so that women and men can avail themselves of these opportunities. Recently at a consultation session in London on child care reforms, one presenter, Barbara Brownell, called for child care programs that will fit around societal and community needs.

At the OTAB consultations in London there was considerable concern expressed last week that training opportunities be offered to new Canadians, women and people in rural areas of Ontario. One presenter stressed the need for proper training for our entrepreneurs, a sector we seem to have overlooked in the past when it comes to training and development. Another presenter said the focus of our training efforts should be on computers and technology training so that we could become, as he put it, the Silicon Valley of Canada.

For sustainable prosperity, however, there must be social justice and equity. Our employment equity legislation, to be introduced, and pay equity extended to over 400,000 women in occupations such as child care and garment work are a testament to that commitment.

In order to maintain sustainable development we must also show respect for our environment and, as pointed out in the throne speech, the convergence of the economic and environmental crises requires that we reassess our priorities. Cleaning up pollution, reducing acid rain, the warming effect, solid waste reduction, energy efficiency and compact development are key to not only a healthy province but a healthy planet.

The Greek word "economy" means much more than just money and the means of production and distribution. In an interdependent world, damage done to one affects all. Therefore, good economics is concerned with the wellbeing of society as a whole. In an interdependent world, damage done to one does affect all, and valuing people as individuals and reducing disparities between individuals, regions and cultures is good economics. A global community is more than just a marketplace; it requires cooperation.

As Bill Blaikie, a federal member, recently observed in Parliament, governments can't abdicate their sovereignty entirely to the marketplace, controlled by unaccountable global economic powers. To use his terminology, Mr

Blaikie said the world must not become "an unfettered playground for the multinational corporate elite." Blaikie went on to say that the economic conditions and rules demanded by these trade agreements—and he was referring to the free trade agreement and the North American free trade agreement—or by GATT for that matter, which the powers that be wish to see similarly dominated by uncritical, free-market values, will eat away at supply management, at social programs, at fair labour legislation, environmental regulations and anything that gets in the way of the powerful to do what they want.

If we don't address poverty now—one in five Canadians lives in poverty—we will pay tremendous social costs down the road. Growth in income declined during the 1980s compared to the surge in income growth from the 1950s to the 1970s. In fact, in 1989-90 the number of low-income families began to increase again, especially those that were single or with families under the age of 25.

It's common fact that we are enduring the worst recession since the 1930s. This recession, coupled with the effects of free trade, the GST, a high interest rate and a high dollar rate, has caused soaring bankruptcies, plant closures and downsizing, massive unemployment and escalating social assistance rolls.

In January of this year Gallup found that 69% of people surveyed saw business conditions as either not too good or bad, the lowest confidence Gallup has measured since 1975. In October of last year Environics found that twice as many people saw unemployment as the most urgent problem we faced than had been the case a year earlier. By January of this year Angus Reid found that one in three Canadians feared unemployment could strike a family member.

As mentioned today, unemployment now stands at 10.5%. That is certainly a level we're unable to countenance. That is why we've introduced a throne speech that's going to build towards economic renewal and get people back into the productive, well-paid workforce again.

In London, the riding I represent, London South, seen by many as a prosperous city, we lost over 800 jobs in January alone when GM, Bendix and even Northern Telecom all announced permanent layoffs. Northern Telecom announced layoffs of 340 employees, one third of its workforce, a surprising number considering that Northern Telecom was seen to be an internationally competitive company that would benefit under free trade.

A recent study by the US International Institute for Economics showed that under a North American free trade pact Canada would lose 4,000 jobs, the US would gain 130,000 jobs and Mexico would gain 600,000 jobs. "Where is the balance?" I'm asked. The balance just is not there.

In London, the riding I represent, London South, housing starts are only beginning to rise. Retail sales are sluggish. I was just talking on Friday to a garment retailer who's facing a cash flow problem he's never seen in the last 14 years he's been in business. Job prospects are down substantially from the peak during the 1989 economic boom.



This government is committed to being a partner or co-investor to assist small and medium-sized companies expand their skills, knowledge and innovation. Recently Innovation Ontario Corp finalized a \$200,000 equity investment in Sciencetech Inc in my riding of London South to use its expertise in advanced technology to promote Canadian products throughout North America and Europe. One important application of this high technology is combating the spread of zebra mussels. Sciencetech in fact works closely with the academic community, as its research and development group is located at McMaster University. I submit that Sciencetech is a fine example of how Ontario high-tech companies can compete in the international market in conjunction with research and development carried on at our academic institutions.

Another example in my riding is the recent announcement of a term loan to Vetrogen Corp by the Ontario Development Corp to capitalize on worldwide trade opportunities for its biotechnology services. Once the new equipment is in operation, 50 new highly skilled high-tech jobs are expected to be created over the next five years.

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These initiatives parallel our efforts made province-wide and documented in the throne speech to encourage research and development at our seven centres of excellence and at the Midland Industrial Research and Development Institute and in other private research and development agreements.

It is very important that at this time our province plays a role in supporting the necessary research and development we need to continue to emerge in terms of the global economy. It is my belief that among all of the industrialized nations, Canada spends less per capita on research and development than all of the others. I would suggest that the kind of announcements our government has been able to make recently are salutary for our ability to compete globally.

At the same time that we act as a partner and coinvestor with private business, we must continue to create jobs in the public sector as we renew our infrastructure: roads, sewers, schools, bridges, water treatment plants, hospitals.

You may recall that John Kenneth Galbraith said of our budget last year, as he observed that Ontario was leading the way out of this recession, that the province "has decided to cut taxes for people with low incomes, to provide more money for social assistance, affordable housing and capital projects, to offer loans for businesses hurt by the recession and to look seriously at creating its own pool of investment capital to help reinvigorate the provincial economy."

Last year's budget certainly brought fairness to the economic lives of Ontarians. It preserved universal health care, quality education and improved conditions for people on low incomes, including child care and affordable housing. This year the throne speech alludes to the area of housing as an example where the construction of accessory apartments, commonly known as basement apartments, will not only create jobs, but also deliver affordable housing.

New investment vehicles have to be found for industrial restructuring and growth, such as the labour-sponsored investment fund mentioned previously, and the worker ownership program. Both programs allow labour to be an active partner in investment and for workers to participate substantively in the decision-making in their workplaces. As well, reform of the OLRA will ensure a reduction in the kind of labour-management confrontation so deleterious to our productivity and will allow labour, including women and immigrants, access to collective bargaining, which experience has shown makes for a productive economy.

Mr Speaker, I know you led earlier with your opinion that reforms to the OLRA have to be tempered. I fundamentally disagree with you, because they have worked extremely well in Quebec over the last 14 years. In fact, at one time an appeal had been launched which was withdrawn in Quebec, simply because Quebec came to the realization that the reforms it instituted at that time contributed effectively to the productivity of Quebec.

The reforms that are being sought here in Ontario, or suggested, are reforms that are common to many other provinces, protections offered by the Canada Labour Code. There is no constructive reason I have heard for the vehemence with which certain interests in this province are opposing the labour reforms. If anything, countries where labour and management can sit down constructively together and plan their common future, plan their industrial prospects, have shown a higher level of productivity and competitiveness than elsewhere. Certainly in the unionized sector, productivity tends to be a lot higher than in the non-unionized sector.

Your leader, the leader of the third party, Mr Speaker, said the other day that there are things in the throne speech "that scare the bejabbers out of me." I think he meant to say bejeeverers. But if there is anything in the throne speech that one need be scared of, it is certainly not the reforms to the OLRA, which are going to enhance our productivity immeasurably.

The Ontario investment fund is another vehicle that will allow pension plans to voluntarily contribute to job creation and productive investment. I received many letters at my constituency office which appear to have been motivated by the president of the Ontario hospitals council, a certain former cabinet minister in your party, suggesting that we're going to siphon off pension funds, that we're going to be totally controlling this pension fund and that we're going to make bad investments.

The reality is that this is a voluntary proposal. The reality is that the proposal calls for arm's-length investment, a board that would invest that money. Third, the proposal is that experienced investment managers would manage that fund. So many of the concerns that seem to have motivated the letter from the president of the Ontario hospitals council and in turn letters from public employees in my riding are ill founded, and I've let them know so. I've let them know that the opposition to the investment fund is part of a political campaign to discredit our government and nothing more.

As we move into the 21st century, Ontario has to participate in renewed federalism, strengthening our national



programs and equalization. These are fundamental. I think the throne speech acknowledges that. At the same time we have to respond to regional needs. A constitution, like a country, has to evolve, preserving what is best of the past while meeting the challenges of tomorrow. Our strength as an economy is closely predicated on our ability to reach reasoned solutions to the constitutional issues we face.

I might add that constitutional tensions are nothing new. In the 1850s there was much disagreement as to how justice, for example, education, property and civil rights could be devolved to the provinces while still maintaining a strong central government.

In 1992, while the provinces have harmonized their social programs to a considerable extent to maintain access, portability, universality, comprehensiveness and public administration, there are still interprovincial barriers to health care, education and training so critical to our future prosperity as a nation.

The entrenchment of a durable social contract in the Constitution would go a long way towards ensuring that economic pressures within Canada and internationally are not used as an excuse to weaken our social fabric.

Economic development must be accompanied by social justice to ensure a high level of technology, human skills and innovation rather than low-wage economy with a high level of human and environmental exploitation. The spending power is designed to ensure that provincial governments have revenues to provide comparable public services at the same level of taxation.

1730

Interjections.

**Mr Winninger:** I'm approaching the end, so some of those individuals will have to bear with me because it proves the old adage that you can get too much of a good thing.

Recently Canadians have become concerned with the erosion of national standards in our spending programs as the federal government has cut back on funding for health care, education and social services. The cap on transfer payments to Ontario has cost our province \$4.5 billion, or \$1,700 for the average family of four, as my colleague the honourable member for Scarborough West pointed out upon moving the throne speech. There are one million people in Ontario on public assistance, up 40% in the past year, and it is predicted to rise another 20% this year. Meanwhile, the federal contribution has dropped from paying 50% of the cost to only 28%.

Finally, we have to spend more money on our public services, including our health care system. On September 27, 1990, soon after our election, Ted Ball, the president of Health Concepts Consultants, spoke at a health executive forum on the topic Facing Realities: Health Care Reform and the NDP Government in Ontario. He said at the McGill Club in Montreal at that time, "Our health and social service systems are on the threshold of undergoing major structural reforms."

How prophetic he was. We now have a new government that is committed to a set of principles that will put a

human face on the reform agenda. He went on to say, "I really do believe—"

**Mr White:** He's a Tory.

**Mr Winninger:** My colleague says he's a Tory. "I really do believe that we can really only change the system if government providers and consumers work together in real partnership on pragmatic ways to reform the existing system." That, as I mentioned earlier, was articulated back on September 27, 1990.

Last week, Earl Orser, chairman of London Life and also chair of the Comprehensive Health System Planning Commission, published his final report, designed to ensure that delivery of health care in the southwestern region, where my riding is located, is accessible, accountable and affordable. Mr Orser suggests a regional management board with extensive public involvement that would make decisions on where health care money will be spent in the southwest region. He recommended that more money be spent on disease prevention, health promotion, community-based care and better coordination of care giver services. This is what Mr Orser, chair of London Life, recommended. These important recommendations can certainly be a blueprint for the future of the delivery of quality health care services on an efficient and cost-effective basis across this province.

I recently attended a very extensive consultation on long-term care in London. As one presenter there put it, the government has to change from being a "gatekeeper" to a "partner" in the delivery of health and social services.

I believe Ontario continues to be an attractive place to invest. Witness the 479 foreign firms that invested in Ontario in the last year, representing \$12 billion in investment. Southwestern Ontario is particularly attractive because of its standard of living, its health, education and community facilities, well-trained and -educated workers, good roads and close proximity to markets.

I am the first to admit there is room for improvement, and I think you're seeing in the throne speech a solid commitment towards economic renewal and prosperity, but a sustainable prosperity reflecting a sense of social justice and equity.

Our native people believe the land is sacred. In the circle of life, the living are linked to the dead and also to the yet unborn. Since we borrow the land from future generations, it is up to us to restore for the benefit of those to come the abundance we take from the land. That's what we mean by sustainable development. That's what we mean by sustainable prosperity. That's what we mean by sustainable economic renewal. I for one agree with our native people that the land and our common future, transcending differences in language, race and culture, offer a framework to build towards a better Ontario.

**Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent):** Mr Speaker, as you listened to the member for London South illustrate the concerns that have faced southwestern Ontario and how the throne speech addresses a lot of our concerns as we anticipate the budget to assist us in making the transitions we need, I'm sure you were listening quite intently to the labour relations issue as he brought it forward and will



agree with me that labour relations reform is a key element to making economic renewal a reality. I don't think we want to get back into child labour again, because child labour has been out. I think the issue has to be in the fashion of making sure of reforms to people, because as we increase our wages and our values, what we do is increase our values in our communities, which leads to prosperity in that fashion.

I think the member for London South has done an excellent job in his presentation today, making sure he was basing his information on fact and what he believes in in southwestern Ontario, especially London. I know he was also bringing forward the concerns of the agricultural community of southwestern Ontario—London is very close to the agricultural community we're based in—and seeing some of the initiatives put forward by this government.

With regard to labour relations reform, some of the agricultural community, I know he would have mentioned, had concerns. A task force was established to deal with the concerns of the agricultural community around labour relations. One of the things I'm sure the member for London South would have brought forward is that we wouldn't want to go back to the days of what happened to the Fleck workers, the majority of them women, who were taken advantage of by their employer. Now, after the major battle they had for the right to organize, that employer has left and gone to Mexico.

The member for London South illustrated the way Mexico will gain advantage from this free trade/North American content legislation. We've seen the impacts that will happen, especially to the major suppliers in southwestern Ontario. We supply a lot of parts. With the federal government, as I think my colleague put it, jerking its responsibilities, we will see the improvements for southwestern Ontario as the NDP government stands forward for its people.

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** I want to comment briefly on the positive nature the member for London South has taken in looking at this throne speech. We've seen a lot of doom and gloom in the form of rhetoric that happens in this House far too often. We need to get beyond that. We heard comments today about an ad campaign that took place in December around the province trying to get feedback from people in the province.

I'll just read some of the things we tried to encourage people to talk and have some discussion around: the Ontario budget, Ontario investment, new skills training, long-term care, labour relations, a lot of different areas. The Premier, in answer to a question today, talked about the 50,000 people who responded to that ad. That's an incredible number.

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The member for London South talked about OTAB training and training of a workforce for the future of Ontario. It seems that all too often we can dwell on the negative, and there have been a lot of jobs lost. I do not want to point to some of the programs from the federal government that these are the result of, but I want to point at some of the investment.

On a day like today we hear speeches in this Legislature talking about doom and gloom when Ford has announced \$2 billion into the province in Oakville and Windsor. That means substantial investments in Ontario, and that is, after all the discussion around labour relations that has been taking place, a positive thing.

I think it would do all members of this Legislature a great deal of good if, for example, they were to take this budget booklet put out by the Treasurer of Ontario to their constituents and consult with them and explain the fiscal situation in the province today. Maybe we could end a little bit of the rhetoric and get on with some positive discussion, as the member for London South has done so ably today.

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I am pleased to ask a couple of questions of the member for London South. First of all, I would like to compliment him on the thoughtful speech he gave. I am afraid I disagreed with certain parts of it, but certainly his presentation was most thoughtful.

He discussed the Orser commission and the examination of the delivery of health care in southwestern Ontario. Being in Wellington county we are still in southwestern Ontario and are part of that report, and we have fairly grave concerns about the suggestions in that report. When you look at what Orser has suggested, it includes a devolution of power from Queen's Park to local decision-making bodies. What I think we have to question is whether this government is in any way going to take away decision-making capacity from Queen's Park. Are you going to continue to maintain two separate bureaucracies and probably confuse things even more? I would like to hear the member's comments, when he gets a chance to sum up, on that particular issue.

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** I too would like to rise to offer my congratulations to the member for London South. As usual, he had for us an excellent speech replete with knowledge and important information.

I would like to pick up on one small point in regard to the partnership in health care and the restructuring of those services that the member mentioned. I know our government has been in the forefront in changing the way in which health care is provided. The health regulations legislation which was recently passed offers people a much greater choice in the kinds of health care professionals they want to consult with, as well as protection, a protection which I am sure will soon be offered to the social workers in this province as well.

This choice and these challenges are a significant part of the thrust that we are embarking upon, as we are committed to a decent level of affordable and accessible health care in our province. In order to provide that care we have to restructure and reorganize many of the health services so that they can be offered. Often the way in which we can do that is by the partnership that my colleague mentioned, a partnership at the community level involving nurses, social workers, doctors, involving the community determining its own needs in the best possible way.



I think those partnership issues, those fairness issues, those participation issues are an essential thrust of where we are going as a government and as a province.

**Mr David Winniger (London South):** I certainly appreciated the supportive comments made by my colleague the member for Chatham-Kent. I perhaps have one farmer in my entire riding of London South, but it was remiss of me not to mention the needs of that one farmer. Certainly, since Chatham is only one hour's drive from London and it's reeling from unemployment, bankruptcies and job dislocation in a way that London can only have nightmares about, the situation he confronts today is certainly far more deleterious than my own. But I am confident that if we can work towards sustainable prosperity it will benefit not only my own riding but also the riding of the member for Chatham-Kent.

I certainly appreciated the remarks made by the member for Durham-York and the member for Durham Centre.

In response to the member for Wellington across the chamber, I would remind him that the Orser report on comprehensive health care planning is only a report. At one point, our Minister of Health suggested this report could be a model for the rest of Ontario, the kind of proposal whereby a funding envelope would be granted to the region and then the region, made up of people from all sectors in that region, through a management board, would make those important daily health care funding decisions that have to be made.

I would recommit myself to the remarks I made earlier about the important challenge we face as a province, but I'm confident this throne speech offers the kind of material for thought we need to rely on at this time.

**Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland):** I am very pleased to have this opportunity to participate in the debate on the speech from the throne. I only wish I could say I was pleased with the contents of the speech from the throne, but I'm afraid I can't. People in my riding are frightened and concerned about their future and they were placing their hope on the government's direction for this session.

In fact, since taking office, many Ontarians have been anxiously waiting to see the Premier's government take action on environmental issues in particular. When members across the chamber sat over here in opposition they used to go after previous governments with such tenacity and verve, especially when environmental concerns were there. Expectations were really high. Alas, now they are over there and they are experiencing the realities of governing.

Until this throne speech was presented, speculation was rampant that the Minister of the Environment had lost that strong voice she was known for on the environment. Some even thought maybe there was no room for her at the cabinet table any more. But with the throne speech as our evidence now, we see that just maybe she still has influence after all.

With the throne speech as our evidence, we see the Premier reuse the NDP philosophy and ideology to reduce Ontario's confidence and competitiveness and have to recycle the fledgling initiatives of the last session. The 3Rs

are good practice in the environment, but the 3Rs used in this context mean "refuse to listen, regardless of expense and ripe with NDP rhetoric."

The people of this province have witnessed the demise of our economy, the abandonment of our health care system and the total collapse of consultation and cooperation between the government and the very people it works for. The people of Ontario don't share the socialist view that more government is good government. The Premier's idea that his NDP government should and can solve all problems has shown the people that this type of government becomes the very problem. This type of approach leads to record deficits and the erosion of our initiative and drive.

#### 1750

The Premier continues to display that his government has no coherent plan for the development and evolution of Ontario's economy. He must realize that if you want to maintain and expand social programs, you have to generate the money to pay for them. You can't stand by helplessly handwringing and watch revenues just continue to dwindle away. It is crucial that government play a proactive role in helping to generate a new wealth for our economy. People want paycheques, not welfare cheques.

In Northumberland county, we have witnessed record levels of unemployment, ever-increasing numbers of welfare recipients, farm families reaching out for help, retail and small business collapsing and our manufacturing base leaving, never to return again.

Municipalities in Northumberland have done a very creditable job of holding the line on taxes while maintaining their commitment to social assistance. For the Premier to suggest that they borrow more money is ridiculous. They are not prepared to mortgage their futures. Last week Warden Chalovich stated that Northumberland county council couldn't even take advantage of the Ministry of Transportation's road subsidies because it didn't want to increase its operating budget.

I was just speaking with Reeve Weese of Murray township and she told me she is going to have to turn down the subsidy to build a new equipment garage that they have been waiting for for years because they can't afford to match their portion of the cost. Municipalities have been fiscally responsible. They are trying to leave money in the people's hands so they can invest in our economy, a strategy I only wish we could see the NDP government use in its budget deliberations.

The Cobourg District General Hospital, the Port Hope and District Hospital and the Campbellford and District Hospital have all had to make drastic reductions due to the NDP's mismanagement. Services are being cut to the bone and those who provide the services are helplessly standing by as their jobs go on the operating table daily.

This is all being done at the expense of the NDP's proposed long-term care reform. Yet the assistant Deputy Minister of Health stated just last week that the long-term care proposals wouldn't be going to cabinet until July and only then will they decide whether more consultation is needed or whether they should finally go ahead and implement it.



I find it very difficult to understand how the Minister of Health can cut services in one area and fail even to consider the services that are meant to replace them until months after the cuts. Meanwhile, she has set up an expensive and unneeded bureaucracy to implement the long-term care and doesn't even know what form it will take or in fact when it will take place.

Seniors and the disabled right across this province are nervous and afraid that at a time when they want peace of mind, the services will not be there as they experience ill health or become frail. Now they have lost complete confidence that they will be able to access what they require.

Mr Speaker, I think you know that a large part of my riding is rural agriculture, as is yours. The people really were looking to this throne speech for the Premier's vision of the agricultural community. They were looking for long-term plans that would put the agrifood industry on a basis of some lasting financial stability.

In the past month, I have met with dairy farmers, chicken producers and processors, vegetable growers and producers, beef farmers, pork producers, grain growers and those in the horticultural sector. To a person, they are most concerned about their future. There is a question that keeps gnawing at them: Is there a future for them here in Ontario?

Certainly under the federal Tories they have seen nothing and expect nothing, with the eminent demise of the marketing boards. I am sure the member for Hastings-Peterborough would be quick to point a finger at the federal government, but I would say to him, were you at the cabinet table when decisions were made to increase Ontario Hydro rates 44% over the next three years? Were you there when the Treasurer decided to raise fuel taxes? Obviously not.

Now, in the midst of these most uncertain times, we see but a few lines in the government's throne speech reannouncing last year's farm interest assistance program. Perhaps this government has yet to realize that one in five jobs in Ontario is related to the agrifood industry. Perhaps, if you ask your brothers and sisters in the Teamsters Union or United Food and Commercial Workers, you would find out just how important the agrifood industry really is. Under the Liberal administration, the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food increased at a significant rate. I hope last year's trend of reducing its portion of the budget does not continue in our upcoming budget.

The whole economic viability of eastern Ontario has come into question under the government. Whether it's cross-border shopping in Kingston or Cornwall or whether it's closing down manufacturing plants in Trenton and Port Hope, small businesses are being crushed by taxes and the tourist industry is suffering badly because of the NDP policies and programs.

We in eastern Ontario expected to see the re-establishment of the cabinet subcommittee for eastern Ontario, which worked so well under the Liberal government. The

Ontario East Economic Development Commission recently wrote the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology asking that he reaffirm the status of the eastern Ontario economic development fund, and as yet, no response. This fund helped to develop the infrastructure for Cobourg's industrial park and allowed many communities to develop an economic plan for their survival. These plans would allow them to attract new business and encourage investment in eastern Ontario.

I say to the members of the NDP government who sit at the cabinet table, especially those from the east, like the Minister of Government Services, the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Agriculture, that we in the east are no less important than the GTA or the north, all of which seem to get special treatment in Bob Rae's Ontario.

I have many other areas of concern with what is in this throne speech, and perhaps even more concern with what is not in the throne speech: issues like the borrowing of teachers' pension funds to bail out failing industries, just like the NDP used Ontario Hydro ratepayers' money to do it in the north, or to use them to build roads and sewers and schools like the Tories did, only to leave the fund \$4 billion short at the end of their spending spree; issues like giving enough support to our policemen and policewomen so that they can ensure our society is a safe place in which to live and work, rather than downloading it on the municipalities, which is what I expect this new budget the government will put forward will do; issues like building a bureaucracy through the Advocacy Act that will take away the rights of an individual and his or her family to their freedom to determine what's best for them.

Perhaps the one issue I hear about the most in my riding, and it seems to be coming up again and again, is the one that best exemplifies this government's agenda: the proposed changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. There is certainly no outcry in my riding for these changes. In fact, just the opposite is true. Industries, manufacturers and chambers of commerce all find these labour proposals a threat to their very existence and certainly a disincentive to prospective new investment in Ontario. But to appease just 30% of the workforce—and I suspect their numbers are dwindling during this depression—the Premier has said he will forge ahead regardless of expense. Should the Premier think that through the contribution of union dues this will become a cash cow for the New Democratic Party, he'd better think again, for there will be no industry or business left to organize.

This government came to power largely due to the growing stridency and effectiveness of special-interest groups pursuing their own narrow advantage.

**The Acting Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** The honourable member will notice that it is now 6 of the clock, and she will certainly have the floor tomorrow when we resume debate.

The House adjourned at 1800.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale



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No. 6

Nº 6

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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 14 April 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mardi 14 avril 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





## Table of Contents

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## Table des matières

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste alphabétique de députés de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 14 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### GOVERNMENT MAILINGS

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** Last week a resident in my community brought to my attention a flyer she had received from the Ministry of Education. What concerned her was not the document itself, but the way in which it was delivered. Apparently the Education ministry had mailed her a single sheet of paper in a full-sized envelope when a regular envelope would clearly have been more than enough. The difference is 42 cents postage and a lot of wasted paper.

My staff advises me that this appears to be normal procedure for many ministries, if not all ministries. I have here two further examples, from the Environment and Natural Resources ministries of all places. This 10 by 12 envelope had one single piece of paper in it. Why does this government insist on spending 84 cents when it could easily spend 42 cents and do the job?

Yes, Mr Premier, it is important to communicate with the people of this province, but surely your ministers can find a way to do so without this kind of wastefulness. It is a shame.

### FORD MOTOR CO OF CANADA

**Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South):** I wish to extend my sincere and hearty congratulations to both the management and workers of the Ford Motor Co in my riding of Oakville South. Management has worked hard to secure this investment to build a new mini-van and light truck assembly in Oakville. They have done so because they are obviously confident they have a flexible and high-quality workforce.

In Oakville, their investment will total more than \$1 billion. Already they have spent money on a high-tech paint facility and to retool and re-equip the Oakville assembly plant. The Oakville assembly plant will be Ford's single source of these vehicles, which will compete in the fast-growing segment of the US-Canadian market.

Both of these programs will require the largest and most intensive training programs ever undertaken by the company and will mean that Ford employees will receive the new skills required for the advanced technologies to be used in this operation.

I am personally acquainted with both management and workers at the Ford plant and I want to wish them all well as they embark on a new cooperative era in the impressive history of the Ford Motor Co of Canada. It's a fine example of an excellent corporate citizen and we are very proud of everyone.

### WINDSOR WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville):** Last Friday night my wife and I attended the Windsor Women of the Year Awards hosted by the Women's Incentive Centre and Trillium Cable Communications. More than 100 different groups had been invited to nominate women who should be recognized for their outstanding work in areas of support, education and advocacy of issues affecting women. Three persons were so honoured.

Emily Carasco is a professor of law at the University of Windsor and has been a dynamic force in pushing the issues of educational and employment equity on campus. She has been involved in Big Sisters of Windsor, past president of the Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society and has served two terms as president of the university faculty association. Last Sunday, she was nominated as the NDP candidate for the federal riding of Windsor West.

Jo-Anne Johnson is president of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1948 at Chrysler Canada. She first became involved in union politics in 1975 and became the first female president of a Big Three local union. She is a delegate to the Windsor and District Labour Council, has been president of the Windsor-Riverside NDP Riding Association, is a board member of the Windsor Symphony Society and is now involved with a coalition of poverty activists.

Laura Moore is president of CUPE Local 543 at the city of Windsor. She was instrumental in the hiring of a full-time affirmative action officer for the city and has been a representative of the city's employment equity committee since its inception. She is a member of the Ontario CUPE executive board and the mother of two young children.

I want to personally congratulate Windsor's Women of the Year.

### BEARSKIN AIRLINES

**Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora):** A good-news story from the riding of Kenora. Members of this House will know that the communities in the Kenora riding depend heavily on air transportation into, out of and around the northwest. As you will remember, during the last session, the community of Kenora was pushing to find a way to improve the level of air service to the community in order to make travel comfortable for its residents and to attract visitors to our region.

A small private airline which operates out of Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay saw the need for an improved air service, which I must add the government saw but did not know how to provide, and I can tell you that the people living in the northwest have had their service upgraded.

Bearskin Airlines has recently purchased two Metro III aircraft to fly its routes. These aircraft represent a significant upgrading of air service for Kenora. I am optimistic that the increased cabin comfort, the washroom facilities, the added passenger and luggage capacity and the reduced



flying time between communities which these aircraft offer will help meet the needs of those travelling throughout the region.

At this time when there is so much economic bad news throughout the province, I would like to congratulate a company that has shown faith in the travelling public of the northwest. Bearskin Airlines should be commended for its investment in upgraded air service and recognized as a good corporate citizen.

With that said, I would like to also say to my constituents that I will continue to work with government and the private sector to ensure that air service for the Kenora area continues to develop and improve.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** There are 27,000 high school students in the Ottawa-Carleton area whose education has been critically interrupted by secondary school teachers' strikes. For the young people in the final year, this has seriously affected their chances of being accepted in colleges and universities this fall, and all students are at grave risk of losing their school year.

The Minister of Education said last Wednesday that he supports the collective bargaining process and the situation can be resolved locally. It should be obvious to him that the collective bargaining process is not working and the situation is not being resolved locally. A week later the students are still in the streets and negotiations have broken down. The mediator said he did not expect a resolution to what is now a 23-day strike at the Ottawa Board of Education in the near future.

1340

I introduced two private members' bills last week which would legislate an end to the strikes and limit wage increases to 1%, 2% and 2% for the next three years. Due to a misunderstanding on my part as to the time periods covered by the Treasurer's 1%, 2% and 2% transfers, I will be withdrawing those bills and introducing two new bills which deal more fairly with the two sides in these disputes. In addition to legislating the teachers back to work and limiting wage settlements, the replacement bills will deal with the time period not under agreement before January 1, 1992, and will call for the outstanding disputes to be resolved by final-choice arbitration.

I ask the minister to show some leadership and support the principle of these bills and legislate the teachers back to work.

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

**Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold):** Mr Speaker, I don't have a whole lot of time, but there are a few things I want to say. You know I am not particularly crazy about the \$1,000-a-day consultants and the spin doctors and the pollsters who tend to have invaded all levels of government, quite frankly. One of the reasons why, and perhaps the foremost reason why, is because I have learned from just being out there in the province that a whole lot of people out there are real smart, in small towns and communities across this great province of ours, and are more

than capable of providing good advice and good solutions to the real problems we face.

I suppose what I want to do as well this afternoon is thank those people who take the time to write to their MPPs: people like Anna Elders, from Woodlawn Road in Welland, who writes with real concern about the impact of Bill 108, and her point is well made; people like Wendy Hertwig, from Harper Crescent down in Thorold, who writes about the real problems she has and a whole lot of other mothers who are receiving child support have because of the impact of really negative and regressive federal income tax laws on those child support payments; but also people like Rob Scricca. Now Rob is a working guy—he works real hard down in Thorold—and knows a whole lot, because Rob writes about cross-border shopping. What Rob Scricca has to say is worth 10 times what any of the high-priced pollsters have told this government or other governments before.

I tell you, Mr Speaker, if we'd get out of our cars and stop and listen to those people who have put us here, we'd be a lot closer to solving the problems we face as a nation and as a province.

#### RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** Before the last election, the former Liberal government passed legislation to allow individual municipalities to pass bylaws in favour of Sunday shopping. The NDP came into office and overturned that law, disregarding the wishes of local municipalities and merchants and individuals who wish to work on Sunday. This was payback time to certain union bosses who had supported the NDP in its quest to become the government. They have put the interests of certain union bosses ahead of the interests of local municipalities and the merchants of Ontario and many thousands of individual workers.

Sunday shopping is needed to fight against cross-border shopping, which is devastating our economy. Cross-border shopping in Canada has cost us an estimated \$3.5 billion and 50,000 jobs, most of them here in Ontario, I want to tell the NDP government.

Mr Speaker, 62% of Ontarians polled this recent February said they were in favour of Sunday shopping to help stem the tide of cross-border shopping and to have greater convenience and offer the opportunity of part-time and permanent work to our economy, which is being devastated for a number of reasons. We want the NDP to wake up and to listen to the people, who have said, to the tune of 62%, that they wish Sunday shopping.

#### ROSEMÈRE, QUEBEC

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of the town of Rosemère, Quebec, and its mayor, Yvan Deschênes, who voted overwhelmingly this past weekend to keep their town bilingual. The result of their important referendum sends a message to the Office de la langue française that the people of Rosemère wish to continue to communicate with anglophone citizens in English, even though the population of the town has changed from once being as high

as 80% anglophone to now being about 65% francophone. Under Quebec's 1977 French-language charter, known as Bill 101, only towns with 50% or more anglophone residents are eligible for bilingual status.

This small, brave town of some 12,000 people is telling the province of Quebec and the people of Canada that English and French residents can continue to live in harmony. Their exemplary display of tolerance and common sense is admirable at a time when many Canadians are confused and torn between opposing allegiances. I have sent a personal message of support to the mayor and hope other Canadians, especially my colleagues in this assembly, will do the same.

#### FORD MOTOR CO OF CANADA

**Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent):** I stand in the House today to congratulate Ford Motor Co and the thousands of CAW workers in Essex and Windsor. Through their pride in the product and dedication to their work, they secured the confidence of Ford Motor Co. Yesterday Ford announced it will invest more than \$2 billion in Canadian plants in Windsor and Oakville. Of that, Windsor will benefit from more than \$1 billion of investment to equip engine plant 2, which was closed in December 1990. This plant will reopen in 1995 when it begins producing a new family of truck engines. This, combined with the opening of the Windsor aluminum plant in 1993, will stabilize employment at the current level of 3,200.

The Essex engine plant was the first plant in the world to receive the company's Q-1 award, and the Essex aluminum plant was the second winner. This is really a first for North America.

Ford chairman Kenneth Harrigan said yesterday, "I have no doubt that this remarkable quality performance by Windsor employees was an important factor in the selection of Windsor for this investment."

I am very, very proud, and this is really a personal thing because I worked at Ford Motor Co and also as a member of the CAW. I am happy for the families and the workers who will go back to work.

The CAW and Ford have reinforced what this government has been saying for the last 18 months, that management and labour can work together for the benefit of this province.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### SUPERVISED ACCESS

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** The minister responsible for women's issues and I are very pleased to announce today details of the supervised access pilot project. Last fall I told this Legislature about the government's intentions to examine supervised access services as a means of providing safe, neutral and child-focused settings in which children can visit their non-custodial parents or other family members such as grandparents.

Earlier today, I, along with the minister responsible for women's issues and the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area, announced the location of the first super-

vised access project site in Etobicoke under the sponsorship of LAMP, the Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project.

In the coming weeks we will be announcing 12 other sites across the province that have been selected to participate in the supervised access pilot project. Some of the project sites are in large urban areas like Toronto, while others are in smaller cities and broad rural areas in eastern and northern Ontario.

I believe these pilot programs are excellent examples of what can be accomplished when governments work with community groups to provide much-needed services.

One of the criteria used to assess applications for funding was the extent to which the community group or agency applying for funding demonstrated the ability to access, maintain and build on existing community programs, funding and facilities.

We will use existing facilities such as day care centres, churches and children's mental health centres as the actual sites for the projects. Existing community programs will share any available resources with the supervised access pilot projects.

The total cost of the pilot project is \$2 million over two years, but the majority of the supervised access centres will operate on significantly less than \$100,000 annually. We will be serving a great number of children and their separated families in more communities across Ontario at a relatively low cost to the taxpayer.

The centres will be run by local community boards, which will ensure that the pilot projects meet the needs of their particular communities, including minority groups.

#### 1350

Supervised access centres will make a big difference for families. The centres will help in a number of difficult family situations, for example, in cases where there are concerns about the safety of the mother of a child, where the non-custodial parent has a drug or alcohol problem or a psychiatric disorder, where there has been a lengthy separation between the parent and the child or where there is risk of abduction. In families where there is a great deal of unresolved conflict between separated parents, a neutral place to drop off or pick up the child will make access visits easier to arrange and will reduce the tension for children.

The availability of supervised access services will reduce the conflict experienced by separated families; ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children; ensure the safety of the mother, particularly in situations involving wife assault; provide trained staff and volunteers who will be sensitive to the needs of the child, and provide the court and lawyers with factual observations about the participants' use of the service.

When we announced our intentions to pursue this project last fall, we generated a great deal of interest in all parts of the province. Many excellent proposals were submitted. All proposals were reviewed by the Supervised Access Funding Advisory Committee, and I relied heavily on its recommendations regarding the funding of particular sites. For the purposes of the pilot project, we chose sites which could provide us with fair geographic distribution and information about different ways of delivering supervised access services.



I want to commend the members of the committee. The time, energy and hard work the members have devoted to reviewing applications and developing their recommendations have been instrumental in getting the project under way very quickly. The members of this committee are volunteers from different parts of the province representing groups such as children's services organizations, women's organizations, the judiciary, aboriginal communities, immigrant and visible minority organizations, the legal profession, non-custodial parents and the francophone community.

I know the House will join me in wishing the new centres all the best and in thanking the Supervised Access Funding Advisory Committee for a job exceedingly well done. With us today in the members' gallery are some of the committee members. I wish to introduce Alfred Aquilina, Michael Goodmurphy, Janet MacDonald, Brad Salmond and Leighann Campagna. I wish to thank them for all of their work. Well done.

It is particularly important during difficult economic times that we deliver important public services as efficiently and as effectively as possible. Ontario is one of the first jurisdictions in North America to study the issue of supervised access in a systematic way. The supervised access pilot project will enable us to make informed decisions regarding the long-term future of supervised access services in Ontario.

I want to thank the members of the committee again for a lot of hard work and a job well done.

## RESPONSES

### SUPERVISED ACCESS

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** In Ontario, as well as across the country, justice issues are developing in geometric progression, but unfortunately here in Ontario the ability of this government and this Attorney General to deal with these issues is moving in arithmetic progression. We are falling farther and farther behind. One cannot disagree with the principles and the intent of the actions of the Attorney General in this announcement today; however, we have to look at how effective it is and how timely it is and how complete it is.

The previous Attorney General, the member for St George-St David, had introduced pilot projects for this very same purpose. He introduced comprehensive legislation to deal with access under these circumstances; that is, an amendment to the Children's Law Reform Act, Bill 124. Rather than taking legislation which would have province-wide application, we now have another series of pilot projects.

Justice delayed is justice denied. By the very fact that we are starting out with one pilot project and we are going to politicize the issue and go across the province making individual announcements in different locations, what we are saying is that every single community where one of these pilot projects and this access legislation do not exist is justice denied to the people who want access to fair treatment for children and parents across this province.

What this minister is doing today is saying that he can't make up his mind. There was a bill, Bill 124, that was passed by the Legislature and had only to be pro-

claimed. This minister could have amended it to make it apply across the province. He chose not to do it. Again I say he's politicizing a very substantive issue and he's denying access and he's denying justice to significant parts of this province.

When I say "politicizing," I mean the fact that as a normal courtesy this announcement would be made to the members of this Legislature, yet it was made outside the Legislature, and as a normal courtesy this announcement would be given to the opposition, which it was not. This government continues to play games with the justice system in Ontario.

As I mentioned at the outset, issues are developing geometrically and this minister is applying an ad hoc process. He's doing nothing significant or substantive. He's playing with it. He's a goalie and the puck's in the net before he even sees it. There are so many significant issues out there in this province that he is not dealing with in any significant way. I think the minister is going to have to reassess how he's conducting the whole area of his portfolio, significant issues. I continue to say he's politicizing all kinds of issues.

We look at a system of justice that is supposed to have the respect of the community. The Attorney General is the chief law officer of the land and, Mr Speaker, he's losing that respect, if you look at the way he's running his ministry, the whole situation with respect to his deputy, Mary Hogan, and the fact that the legal profession is now rife with rumours that he will be passing legislation to create a cute little sinecure for this person he had to bump out. The actual fact that the Attorney General, the minister of justice for Ontario, for months on end was not even able to speak to his deputy really brings the administration of justice into disrepute.

As I mentioned, there are other issues where this minister is politicizing the administration of justice. I will raise one of those tomorrow in a significant way, because time doesn't permit it at present. However, I want to say to the minister that the legal profession and the people of Ontario want action now and they want it in a significant way on issues like legal aid, where there are serious problems. The advocacy legislation has serious problems and needs to be amended. We will oppose that legislation. When will the whole system of control of the courts, Small Claims Court issues, the whole issue of paralegals and the whole issue of contingency fees be dealt with? The puck's in the net and the minister hasn't seen it yet.

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'd like you to look into another breach of the traditions of this House. A cornerstone of the speech from the throne last week was the Ontario investment fund, and today, rather than an announcement in the House by the Treasurer, we had a media conference about 15 minutes ago. I frankly expected more of the Treasurer, for whom I have a great deal of respect—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The member will know that the ministers of the crown have the opportunity to make statements in the House. There is nothing in the rules to compel ministers to make statements in the House.



## ORAL QUESTIONS

## RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** My question is for the Solicitor General. I noticed he had vacated his seat, but he's coming now. I presume he can hear me as I speak.

Rather than getting on with economic revival, the NDP government has chosen to put roadblocks in the way of local communities and local business people who wish nothing more than to do their very best in the face of what we now see as the worst economic downturn since the 1930s. The Liberal government had enough faith in local people and local municipalities to rely on their ability to decide what was best for their communities. The NDP obviously thinks only the NDP can decide what is best. This government says it wants to build a strong economy. We say cut the sham.

Will the Solicitor General agree to delete the vague "tourism" definition and the appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board from the Sunday shopping legislation so the local communities that believe Sunday shopping is best for them do not have to jump through those hoops?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services):** Quite frankly, I think the new legislation is quite clear and is an improvement over that which existed previously. The tourism exemption particularly was developed by a large group of stakeholders who came from a wide variety of walks of life and did in my belief a very commendable job. It leaves the municipalities in a circumstance where they have a rather clear guideline as to which applications should receive exemptions and which should not.

Also, I took with interest comments from a member of the Toronto clerk's department, who indicated they have not been overburdened with applications. They had received somewhere around 80 applications. Her quote was that they were by no means going nuts and they were not being overrun, so I imagine the process as envisaged is in fact moving on to a reasonable conclusion.

1400

**Mr Curling:** What is quite clear is that the Solicitor General is not listening. In the throne speech last week, this government went out of its way to show it wants to facilitate the economic revival of this province. It went out of its way to put out that nothing is more important to the people of Ontario than getting the economy back to health. The Liberal government allowed local people, as you are quite aware, to decide how to run their own communities. We know that local people and communities across this province want Sunday shopping. They say their local economies need it to survive, especially in cross-border communities, yet the NDP government refuses to listen to the very people it has promised to respond to.

This government has made it impossible for people and communities to exercise their right to choose Sunday shopping when that is what they clearly want. Responding to communities is what government is all about, Mr Solicitor General. When is this government going to listen to the wishes of the people of Ontario?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** This government always has listened and will continue to listen to the wishes and respect the general public who have concerns. More particularly, the latest amendments paid concern to those hundreds of thousands of workers in the retail trade who ought not to be forced to work on Sundays if they do not so wish.

In addition, as the Premier commented the other day and as the honourable member has indicated, there continues to be growing numbers of people expressing a concern with respect to this topic, and this government is in fact listening. If the government decides at some future time to make any other arrangements or amendments, we will have listened to the public. We will bring them forward to this House at that time.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** The Solicitor General suggests the new guidelines are quite clear. The throne speech suggested this government was interested in clearing away the morass of bureaucratic red tape to help realize the wishes of the people, whether in the area of business activity or commercial activity.

Let's look at the situation of the city of Toronto. In order to realize the wishes of the people, the city of Toronto yesterday voted nine to five in favour of identifying some 750 historic sites in Toronto so as to allow any store within the boundaries of Toronto to be designated as a tourist facility. Beyond that, it then has to take that little fiction to Metropolitan Toronto's council to get permission for Metropolitan Toronto to pass a bylaw to recognize this fiction. Then, when it's all done, a couple of theologians from the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union can appeal the matter, or Gerald Vandezande, who is the last crusader left against Sunday shopping, can take the matter to the Ontario Municipal Board and have the whole thing amount to naught.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member place his supplementary, please.

**Mr Sorbara:** Is it the case that the Solicitor General supports this kind of process, this kind of fiction, this kind of fantasy that says that if a shopkeeper decides in his or her wisdom to open up the store, he or she has to be near one of these 750 fictional historic sites in the city of Toronto? Is that really what you intended by this bill? Do you support that kind of approach—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the member conclude his question, please.

**Mr Sorbara:** —to getting around your stupid, archaic, unworkable legislation? Is that what you want?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** I'd like to thank the member for his obvious support of our amendments and our bill.

**Mr Sorbara:** You're the only person who supports them. Nobody else thinks they work and you do only because Bob told you to.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order, the member for York Centre.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I'm waiting. Minister.



**Hon Mr Pilkey:** In response to the honourable member, it is the municipality that sets the terms of the application process. I assume Metro has done a very adequate job in that respect. If the honourable member feels that the Metropolitan council and its chairman have not done an adequate job in that respect, perhaps he might invite those who are commenting otherwise to call Alan Tonks and suggest that to him.

I would like to say as well that the criteria this government established were very clear and quite frankly should be a set of circumstances easily understood by both business and municipalities, which I might add stood in stark contrast to some of the earlier legislation that was brought forward on this particular topic.

#### CORPORATE MINIMUM TAX

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** The Treasurer has now received the working group report of the Fair Tax Commission on the corporate minimum tax. We're all aware, after having read that report, that the working group members have said that they don't have enough information and that this issue needs to be studied more.

It appears that the Treasurer knows better. The day after the report was released, the Treasurer said that for sure he would introduce some form of corporate minimum tax in his next budget, or at least that's the quote that was attributed to the Treasurer. We certainly know that the Treasurer seems to have said that, and that despite the concerns of his own working group he seems to feel this is a good idea. I ask the Treasurer why he appears ready to ignore the advice of his own working group and impose a minimum working tax.

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** First of all, I don't know where you saw that I said we were going to introduce a corporate minimum tax in this budget since the Fair Tax Commission working group brought down its report. What I did say was that we would be sending a signal in this budget as to what our intentions would be. I think that either one of two things has happened, and I didn't see this: Either I was misquoted in one of the tabloids or you read it incorrectly.

1410

**Mrs McLeod:** I do have the quotes but it is entirely possible that they could have been misattributed and that the Treasurer's full intent was not correctly appreciated. Nevertheless we do have some indications that the Treasurer feels some commitment to this idea, at least in its concept. When the Treasurer set up the Fair Tax Commission, he said the goal of this commission was to provide him with advice on how to design and implement a fairer tax system. It seems to us that the working group has spoken very loudly and clearly on this issue, saying there is not enough information about whether a new tax on business is a good idea. I would ask the Treasurer whether he has information that seemed to lead him to continue to hold to the belief that this is at least a good idea, and if he has that kind of information, why has he not shared it with his own working group?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** No, I don't have information that the Fair Tax Commission does not have. As a matter of fact, I think one of the extremely valuable aspects of what the Fair Tax Commission has done on this matter and on many others is that it has become an expert in these various aspects of taxation. There's probably no one in Ontario who knows more about the corporate minimum tax, in this example, than the working group that spent so much time on it. I think they served Ontario well by canvassing the literature and providing us with an analysis we did not previously have. But to be fair, while there's no consensus as to which direction we should move in, certainly the working group's report doesn't rule out the validity of whether we should proceed with a corporate minimum tax.

**Mrs McLeod:** That gives us some concern about what kind of signal the Treasurer intends to send with his budget, since in that last answer he does seem to be rejecting the advice of his own working group and to at least give the matter more study.

One of the pieces of information the working group provided to the Treasurer was that a minimum corporate tax would not raise the kind of revenue the Treasurer hoped it would, at least which the government indicated in the Agenda for People it was looking for. It would be considerably less than the \$1 billion that was originally anticipated. In fact, I think the Treasurer is well aware that during a recession a minimum corporate tax would actually raise far less than might even be expected now. In the meantime corporations, companies, are telling the Treasurer that a new corporate tax would drive them to the United States, so it's entirely possible that the imposition of a new tax of this nature, even the signal that the government is considering this kind of new tax, could actually reduce the \$3.2 billion in corporate revenues that the Treasurer is expecting in his 1992-93 budget.

Can I conclude then from the Treasurer's comments today that the signal his budget will send to this province is that he will not be imposing a corporate tax that would not make the tax system fairer, that would not raise revenues and that would go against the advice of his own working group?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I'll try to be as clear as I can. First of all, what I said was that I would send a signal because I think there has to be uncertainty removed from the corporate tax agenda, and the private sector has a right to know what direction we intend to move in vis-à-vis a corporate minimum tax.

I remind the leader of the official opposition, however, that sounding warnings about corporate minimum tax driving firms to the United States doesn't make a lot of sense when there is already a corporate minimum tax in the United States of America, so I don't think that's the right argument to use. I assure the leader of the official opposition that any tax measures that are taken will be done keeping in mind that we are indeed in the middle of a recession. But at the same time I think the member opposite would agree that there needs to be a sense of tax fairness out there across the province as well.

## RETAIL STORE HOURS

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Solicitor General. I would like to follow up on a question of the only Liberal member of caucus who thinks we should have wide-open Sunday shopping: the member for York Centre.

The Solicitor General will know, following up on that question, that last night Toronto city council voted in favour of declaring the entire city a tourist attraction. Given Toronto's many charms, I wouldn't argue with that description, but it is ludicrous that you have forced council into this position. The city is jumping through the hoops that you set, businesses are closing their doors and workers are losing their jobs every single week.

Mr Solicitor General, most objective observers would agree that your legislation on Sunday shopping is almost as draconian and unworkable as the Liberal legislation before it. Will you give Toronto, indeed all Ontario municipalities, a break by tearing up your legislation on Sunday shopping?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services):** Not to be partisan, but I would respond to the honourable member by saying that his suggestion that businesses are closing their doors has a lot more to do with federal economic policies and the introduction of the GST than with Sunday shopping legislation in Ontario.

Beyond that, we provided in our amendments the situation where we would provide protection for workers. We have done that and it seems to be working exceedingly well since we have passed those amendments.

As I had indicated, if there are other expressions of interest, whether from the general public or as a community, the government continues to be willing to listen and consider those concerns as they are raised.

**Mr Harris:** There is no question that the policies the Premier and his buddy the Prime Minister have brought in are causing us problems, but I am interested in those you have exclusive jurisdiction over.

Last year over 800 retail businesses went bankrupt, throwing thousands of workers out of jobs. Others closed their doors before it was too late: Bargain Harold's, Grafton-Fraser, Pascal Furniture, J. Michaels, Town and Country, to name a few.

Mr Minister, we cannot afford to wait for you and the Premier to get the okay from Bob White. What more proof do you need that your legislation is unfair, unworkable, and is costing us jobs before you allow Ontario to open for business seven days a week?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** The leader of the third party, I think, seeks to find a scapegoat for a lot of major structural problems that have occurred in the retail industry in this province and indeed across this country. I think it is quite unfair of him to try to hitch his star to the Sunday shopping amendments we brought in just a few months ago. I think he might rather turn his attention to the fact that the shopping centre developers of this province perhaps overbuilt their stock. They have perhaps required retailers to take space not only in their A category shopping centres but in

their B category shopping centres that they did not wish to take space in. I am afraid if they misread the market with respect to capacity, that is a problem of those businesses themselves, and not one of this government.

**Mr Harris:** I agree with the minister that a number of businesses did not anticipate Liberal and NDP governments that would throw them out of business and maybe too many of them anticipated a favourable climate in 1992. I agree we don't have one, but what I am interested in is restoring the dream to Ontario, restoring that climate, that hope, that opportunity, and you are going to have to move in a different direction.

Our border communities are in crisis yet your government refuses to open the door to their concerns. They are asking you, they are begging you; the city of Toronto is begging you and yet you and the Premier continue to muse. You titillate them with some speculation that maybe you might be reconsidering.

Mr Minister, you have two choices: You can stimulate the economy and get people back to work or you can continue to dither. Which of those two choices are you going to take?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** Mr Speaker, you'll pardon me for the brief smile on my countenance. Quite frankly, I think that to blame the New Democratic Party and the opposition Liberals for the many economic ills of this country and what the retail sector is suffering when we simply need to look at the free trade agreement, the GST and the onerous interest rates brought forward by that particular party or the supporters of that party is somewhat of a reach.

I simply say to the leader of the third party that if he would pick up the phone and talk to his counterparts in Ottawa one of the most constructive things he could do to help restore business confidence and strengthen the retail industry of Ontario would be to tell his colleagues in Ottawa to forget the trilateral trade agreement they now wish to enter into with the United States and Mexico that follows on the disastrous heels of the free trade agreement that has seen manufacturing and retail alike suffer in this province.

1420

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** While the Solicitor General and the Premier dither on this issue, I would like to go to another ditherer, the Minister of Labour, regarding the Workers' Compensation Board or, in the words of Elie Martel, "the swamp."

Mr Minister, I have documentation on a claim which was awarded to a Niagara Falls labourer in 1990. This individual claimed that the rubber boots he wore on the job had marked his ankles. These marks, he said, restricted potential job opportunities as an exotic dancer. The WCB agreed and awarded him \$1,125. Do you think that an agency that would make this kind of award is an agency that's under control?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I'm glad the leader of the third party, at least this time, is not labelling the whole 5,000 employees of the Workers' Compensation Board as being part of a cesspool. I wonder if he



really wants me to interfere with the judicial process. Obviously the details he's talking about are not something that's on my desk. I wouldn't begin to respond to it until I did a little checking.

**Mr Harris:** No question that it was Elie Martel who said it was a swamp. I called it a cesspool. I don't blame the 5,000 employees; I blame the lack of control, the lack of leadership. I blame you, Mr Minister, for allowing it to continue. You in fact are the one who is knee-deep in this swamp. The water is sloshing over the top of your boots and you don't even seem to know it.

Listen. Now, instead of the WCB looking at correcting the reasons why it is \$10 billion in debt, it is looking at retroactively broadening the definitions to give more awards; for example, broadening the definition of stress. Ontario employers, already with the highest premiums in all of Canada, already with the highest deficit and debt in all of Canada, cannot afford this. Seriously injured workers cannot afford this. Will you stop this nonsense, the studies that are going on to further broaden the base with money we don't have, and look at how we can possibly afford what we are awarding already before we add to this heavily burdened system?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I really don't understand the question of the leader of the third party. I don't understand the member's complaint. Is he saying, for example, that victims of workplace sexual or racial harassment just go away and can't go to the compensation board if they're legitimately unable to work because of the stress? Is he saying that the initiative taken by the Workers' Compensation Board itself to look into the issue of stress should not be done and these workers should never have any avenue to go to if they have a serious situation that prevents them from working? I just can't believe that's the position of the leader of the third party.

**Mr Harris:** I'm saying there are other jurisdictions in this country looking to eliminate the silly, ridiculous abuses and reward those people who legitimately should be getting assistance and some of them who are not today. Last week in this House and again today you have shown a total lack of concern over allegations of fraud, breaches of confidential information, out-of-control claims and a \$10.3-billion liability. Minister, would you not agree, since you're not responsible for the whole mess, that it's time to clean up the swamp? Would you not agree that we should immediately launch a full, public review of the WCB before you sink Ontario further into debt?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** Obviously the leader of the third party has difficulty understanding, but the fact is that the actions being taken now to deal with the fraud are actions that were taken by the new board we put into place to take over and correct some of the situations left, in many cases, by his own government. Certainly the unfunded liability started way back in 1972 in their reign in Ontario and it's something we are now trying to deal with.

I might also say, the initiatives in terms of the problems at the board and in terms of the allegations made are ones that have been taken by the board and the new governance of the board that we put in place.

#### GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I have a question to the Minister of Labour. The Treasurer has been telling us since last November that the NDP would save the taxpayers \$150 million by cutting back government expenses. However, it has come to our attention that the Ministry of Labour's Workers' Health and Safety Centre has just sent almost its entire staff on a two-and-a-half-day retreat at the posh Queen's Landing Inn at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I know, Mr Speaker, you will be aware that the Workers' Health and Safety Centre was under investigation in terms of its nepotism in its hiring practices. It has been suggested to us that this adventure or misadventure probably has cost something in excess of \$30,000. Given the Treasurer's call for fiscal restraint and given the current economic situation, can the minister explain why this meeting was not held in Toronto and can the minister explain his reasons why this expenditure of taxpayers' dollars was justified?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** Surely the member is not suggesting that the workers' health and safety agency, which is a joint management-labour body in Ontario, should not be dealing with the problems we have in health and safety and should not be up to date on the problems we have to deal with in the area of health and safety in the province.

**Mr Offer:** The response by the minister is incredible in its content, and I'm certain those who have watched this will know that. Certainly the Minister of Labour is not suggesting that it is justifiable for all of the staff of this centre to retreat for two and a half days to a posh resort at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We have heard in this session reports of \$200,000 being spent on budget security—maybe that's why they didn't have it in Toronto; there probably wasn't a room available at the Sutton Place—and \$170,000 being spent on ads for a throne speech that was fully reprinted in the same paper.

This is supposed to be a time of restraint, a time when government should lead by example. Can the Minister of Labour explain what type of example his ministry is displaying by justifying such expenditures? Why do you believe this type of retreat is justified, given the financial crisis being faced by Ontario taxpayers?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** To the member, I can tell him that I will get back to him in terms of why the decision was made to hold the session down in Niagara Falls, but I can also tell him very clearly that we are very close to the point of having the certification programs ready for almost 100,000 workers in Ontario, which is a key part of their responsibilities, and I suspect the finalizing of that is exactly why they're down there.

1430

#### MINISTER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** I have a question of the Minister of Northern Development. Tomorrow the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly will be reporting and tabling its report in the Legislature of Ontario.

On March 31, Minister, you were quoted in the Toronto Star, or a statement was attributed to you, is a better way of putting it, as having said on the previous day—I am quoting from the Star article now, not yourself—“She declared she won’t quit now no matter what the panel’s report concludes.” If indeed you made such a statement, I find that attitude to be unbelievably arrogant and having total disregard for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Is that statement attributed to you accurate or not?

**Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines):** Yes, that is quite correct. The decision to resign or not to resign was made some months ago in this House, in December when all of this broke. My understanding of the inquiry and the purpose behind it was to determine whether or not I had at any point received confidential information from the Ministry of Health, from OHIP or from any other source which would have led in part to the comments I made in Thunder Bay. I made it very clear during the course of those hearings when I participated in them, as did many others who came forward to speak, that in no way, shape or form had I had access to that information. In my mind that was the point of the inquiry, and in my mind that was responded to during the inquiry.

**Mr Eves:** What we have here is a minister of the crown saying she doesn’t care if a committee of the Legislature unanimously finds that she should step aside. She is saying: “I’m not stepping aside. I don’t care what the committee said. I don’t care what the public thinks. I don’t care if I breached the Premier’s guidelines.”

You have admitted that you have breached the Premier’s guidelines twice within a six-month period. You made the unbelievable statement before the committee on March 11, “If you were to say, ‘Will you make a mistake again?’ I could not promise you that.” We not only have a minister who has admitted that she breached the guidelines twice in six months but says, “If I were put in the same situation tomorrow, I’d probably do the same thing and breach them again.”

Do you find that conduct befitting a minister of the crown? You can breach the Premier’s guidelines whenever you want, whenever it suits your purpose and you don’t care what anybody thinks. You don’t care what a committee of this House thinks. You don’t care if you breach the Premier’s guidelines, and if you’re put in that situation again tomorrow, you’ll do the same thing. Is that correct?

**Hon Miss Martel:** First, I went to that committee and over a period of about eight hours answered all the questions that were put to me and outlined very clearly what had happened and why and what decisions I had made in December with respect to whether or not I would resign.

Second, I don’t have any indication that the report of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly is going to be unanimous. I have not seen the report. As far as I am concerned, other members of this House don’t know what those details are either. I don’t think the point the member made trying to say that this is unanimous is going to be correct.

Third, in terms of what the committee will say, I made it very clear that it was my understanding that the point of

the inquiry and the reason it was demanded by the members of this House was to determine whether or not I had received any confidential information. I think it became very clear during the course of the hearings, both in testimony by others who came forward from the Ministry of Health and other places and in my own testimony that in fact I did not see or have access to any confidential information which led to the remarks in Thunder Bay.

I take this job very seriously. I do the best I can at all times to live up to the guidelines. I will try and do that as best I can in future.

#### COMMODITY LOAN PROGRAM

**Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings):** My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Minister, since you announced the commodity loan program on March 25, 1992, many farmers and producers who are constituents in my riding of Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings have requested more details about this program. Can you update the House on this program?

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** I’m very pleased that the member takes an interest in agriculture. The commodity loan program is a program we have worked out cooperatively with farm leaders and farm groups which will allow farmers access to operating credit in the spring at rates below what they normally get. It will be administered through the Agricultural Commodity Corp, which is a non-profit corporation made up primarily of farm leaders and farm representatives across the province.

We are very pleased to be able to announce this program prior to the budget with the permission of the Treasurer. It allows us to continue our partnership of working with farmers and farm leaders to bring some long-term finance initiatives for agriculture into the province.

**Mr Johnson:** I’m pleased indeed to see the steps you’ve already taken towards addressing the farm finance problems facing Ontario producers. Are you planning to take any additional steps in this area, and could you elaborate on this for us?

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** In terms of other initiatives, a number are coming out of the study my colleague the member for Essex-Kent did a year ago. We looked at long-term finance and the needs of the agricultural community. There are a number of recommendations in that report which we are also pursuing in cooperation with the farm community.

There are four or five other ideas and options we’re exploring. We had meetings with the farm leaders back in November and in March to try and explore some of these other options, and we have requests sent to my good friend the Treasurer to see if we can find the necessary funds in order to provide some additional assistance and long-term farm financing to the farmers of Ontario.

#### ETHANOL

**Mr John C. Cleary (Cornwall):** My question is also to the Minister for Agriculture and Food. The minister is well aware that we have been working very hard on ways to preserve the family farm. One exciting proposal has been an ethanol pilot project. I believe this project will



assist the province's ailing agricultural industry while promoting an environmentally friendly, renewable energy source, with an estimated 5,000 jobs being created across this province. The spinoff of employment would be incredible for the overall economy.

Keeping in mind that the 1992 throne speech called for an investment in Ontario, I implore the minister to make a valuable investment in the entire province by supporting the proposal for an ethanol demonstration plant and a cogeneration facility in eastern Ontario. Can I, the Seaway Valley Farmers Energy Cooperative and indeed all Ontarians count on the minister's support of this project?

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** I appreciate the member's support of agriculture and the ethanol industry in eastern Ontario. I too support that concept. I want to reassure the member that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is chairing an interministerial committee that's looking into ethanol.

We are exploring a number of proposals that have come to us for support by the government. As soon as we can do an evaluation of the various projects that have been submitted to us, we hope to be able to make announcements. I will continue to provide my ongoing support for the development of the ethanol industry on a regional basis across the province.

1440

**Mr Cleary:** You must admit this proposal has it all. In fact, almost everything is now in place: the technology, the consultants, potential distributors and, perhaps most of all, very eager farmers who already have put forth their own hard-earned dollars. All this project now requires is a commitment from the province.

I insist to the minister that this project is gaining considerable momentum every day. However, the unique technology has been developed and a most economical ethanol will be available exclusively to the Seaway Valley co-op until July 1, 1992. After July 1, the exclusive agreement between Parteq Research of Queen's University and the eastern Ontario farmers becomes void. Mr Minister, I fear that failing to act in the very near future might cause the entire project to relocate, perhaps even outside this province.

Can the minister confirm that he will act by the July 1, 1992, deadline which the Seaway Valley Farmers Energy Cooperative is facing?

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** I appreciate the member's concern about the deadline he has raised of July 1. I want to reassure the member that, from my perspective, we will work as hard as we can to make sure the technology and the benefits that would flow from using the technology that has been developed at Queen's will not be lost. I will do everything in my power to make sure we can move this forward and decide whether we can assist that project in getting under way.

I would remind the member, though, that there are a number of other projects in eastern Ontario that have approached us and asked for support. We will have to evaluate all of those projects and decide which one we would give the nod to. I certainly would like to be able to do that by July 1, if possible.

## TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I have a question for the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, you stated last week, in response to my question regarding the teachers' strikes at both the Ottawa board and the Carleton board, that you support the collective bargaining process and that the situation can be resolved locally.

A week later, another lost week for the 27,000 students, they are still in the streets and are now at serious risk of losing their school year. The mediator said he didn't expect a resolution. In fact, as I understand it, at least as of yesterday neither side was talking to the other in either of those disputes.

We have a 23-day strike at the Ottawa Board of Education and about a 10-day strike at the Carleton Board of Education. Do you, Mr Minister, still believe the collective bargaining process is going to be resolved locally in the Ottawa area?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Education):** I appreciate the question and say to the member that I share his concern about what is happening in the Ottawa area. As I have indicated, I continue to stay very closely in touch with the Education Relations Commission, which is monitoring the situation. I met with them this morning. They advised me that the mediator in the Ottawa board situation is talking to both parties and, further, that the parties are talking to each other. Although formal negotiations have indeed broken off, those discussions are taking place. I'm satisfied as a result of my conversation with the ERC that the process should be allowed to continue, because I believe the negotiations are continuing and can lead to a solution.

**Mr Sterling:** Both Jane Dobell, who represents the trustees, and the union representative on the Ottawa board say they hope the province will not intervene. The attitude: Keep the schools closed a few more weeks. Let the kids get closer to losing their year entirely. In other words, see if the other side plays chicken.

Mr Minister, I am tired of your stalling in terms of action. I've introduced two bills today to resolve this dispute—

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** Two new bills.

**Mr Sterling:** Two new bills; that's right.

I want to read a letter from a constituent of mine:

"I have two teenaged daughters. One is graduating this year at the Ottawa Board of Education; the other is in grade 9 at the Carleton Board of Education. As you know, they are both sitting at home because their teachers are on strike.

"In a recessionary period when most people are grateful to hold on to their jobs, let alone receive a pay increase this year, I fail to understand why the government is not stepping in to stop this deplorable situation."

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** And your supplementary?

**Mr Sterling:** My supplementary is: Put in the words of my constituent: "Our children have been listening to you tell them that you're concerned about their education.

Give them back their education." Put them back in school, Mr Minister, now.

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I continue to say to the member it is my view that as long as there is an opportunity for the issue to be resolved locally, that is the appropriate thing that should happen. I am satisfied that the discussions going on now through the mediator can lead to a solution if the parties are willing to do that. I will also reiterate for the member that I will ensure, as a result of this process, that the school year for the students is not jeopardized. We will look at that situation as the thing is resolved. I think we just have to allow the process to unfold as it is unfolding.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mr David Winninger (London South):** My question is directed to the Minister of Labour. In my riding of London South there is a good deal of uneasiness about a particular advertising campaign. This advertising campaign is telling the people of London that proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act are driving jobs and investment away from Ontario. Would you tell us what evidence there is from reliable sources about the effect of proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act on jobs and investment in Ontario?

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I want to thank the member for the question. I think it's a legitimate one. I want to tell him that I have not seen one study that is based on any economic impact analysis by an objective third party. When you have millions of dollars, I guess you can buy whatever study you want. I want to say further that we have to protect women and immigrant groups. We have to remove obstacles to their ability to look after themselves and to organize. It is a false assumption that labour law reform and a healthy economy cannot go hand in hand.

**Mr Winninger:** This advertising campaign suggests these amendments are being forced on the people of Ontario. Will you tell us what groups were consulted in formulating these amendments to the OLRA?

**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** The honourable member will know we've carried out a very extensive consultation process in 11 communities across Ontario over a period of two months. We met with 334 groups, 209 of which were business groups; we met three times with all the coalition groups, the umbrella groups, and we have listened to the arguments they've made. I suggest to the members of this House that maybe they should wait and take a look at the legislation that is presented.

1450

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the minister responsible for gambling in Ontario. Recent press reports indicate that the NDP government is considering a plan to set in operation up to six gambling casinos across Ontario, including one in Windsor. The Premier himself has said the decision will be made some time this spring. We in Windsor and Essex county were led to believe that

some definitive statement would be made in the throne speech on this substantial change in policy for the NDP. Can the minister be open and forthcoming and inform the Legislature and the people of the province just what the plans are for casino gambling?

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** Any decision concerning casinos has not been made, as I said before. I want to be very clear that any information in the papers and press about locations, numbers etc is purely speculation. There have been no decisions made on whether we're going to move ahead in that direction, and furthermore no decisions on location or, let me repeat, numbers. Having said that, as I said before when asked this question, the issue has been, and will continue to be, considered. No final decision has been made.

**Mr Mancini:** We find ourselves in a difficult position. We find ourselves, with one community that I know of, Windsor and Essex county, lobbying the government. Maybe there are others. We see statements being made by different members of the NDP government. We have statements made by the Premier. I wish to quote a recent statement made by the Premier. His words were, "I don't want to see us placed at a disadvantage in that regard," meaning gambling dollars going to the United States and not staying in Ontario. We find that interesting in that the NDP government is not concerned about cross-border shopping, where Canadian dollars are going to the US and not staying in Ontario, but that's another matter.

We want to know, because communities across this province, and especially Windsor, are waiting, from the minister whether or not there will be one casino, six casinos, three; whether they will be run by the private sector, by the government, by the NDP. We want to know whether your decisions—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. Would the member conclude his question, please.

**Mr Mancini:** We would like—

Interjections.

**Mr Mancini:** Mr Speaker, I am trying to speak over the din and the interruption of the NDP members. It's very difficult. They do not want to discuss this matter in public.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member quickly conclude his question.

**Mr Mancini:** It would have been concluded had we not had the interruptions we've had.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member please conclude his question.

**Mr Mancini:** I want to know from the minister when we can expect some clarity, openness and information on this important subject. I further want to know from the minister, if in fact she does approve casino gambling for Windsor, what steps she is going to take to protect the horse racing industry also located in that town.

**Hon Ms Churley:** I think the member for Essex South perhaps has an opinion. I wonder what his position is at this point. We're not quite clear at this point.



However, I do recognize the validity of the question. I've said before, and I think the member opposite has pointed out, that this is indeed a very complex issue. There are many factors to look at. He raised the issue of horse racing, which is a great concern of mine and of other members of the government. There are issues around gambling addiction. There are issues around crime. There is a variety of complex issues that have to be looked at. We're doing that. I will certainly, when any decision is made, let the member opposite know as soon as we possibly can. But I want to reassure him that we are looking very closely at the horse racing industry—in fact I am consulting with various facets of that industry—and will make sure that is taken into consideration as we make the decision.

#### ONTARIO TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** My question is to the Minister of Skills Development. Mr Minister, I've spoken to you before in the House with regard to the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board consultations. We are all aware that the composition will give eight seats to labour. Seven of the eight labour representatives are nominated by the Ontario Federation of Labour and one by the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario. We're increasingly having concerns presented to us, definitely throughout the city of London as a result of the hearings, with regard to the fact that all these representatives are from the unionized workforce. Non-unionized workers in this province will not be represented even though two thirds of the workers do not belong to unions.

My question to the minister with regard to the concerns being expressed at these hearings is, who will represent the views of the majority of the province's workers?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development):** The balance of representation on the Ontario training board plan that has been put out for consultation has resulted from a lot of consultation that has taken place—over a period of two and a half years, as a matter of fact—and resembles very much the representation on the Canadian Labour Force Development Board created by the Tory government in Ottawa and came out of very similar kinds of long-term consultations.

It's quite clear that in the context of the sectoral training organizations that will be part and parcel of the OTAB structure and its operations, there will be many unorganized plants that will be part and parcel of those structures and that will have people named to councils that will regulate them and so on. They will have a place. The central issue of course is, if you are in an unorganized situation, how can you accountably be recognized and organized and respond? There is no way to do that I am aware of.

**Mrs Cunningham:** I think most of us have heard the expression in life, "Where there is a will, there is a way." In fact, if two thirds of Ontario's labour force are not unionized or organized and we want to hear from them and value their opinions and are going to depend on them in the future in this tremendous responsibility, we will find a way to make certain they are represented.

My second question is this: The central body in this big picture of training in Canada is an advisory body. I think everyone in this House should understand that. It's just an advisory board. The federal body is an advisory body. The board that we've set up here in Ontario, that is being proposed, will have direct financial and administrative control over Ontario's training programs. It's an extremely important body.

The minister said he doesn't know how to do it. Why doesn't he now ask the representatives who come before the committee who do not represent unionized workers how they could advise this government as to how it could choose representation from the majority of the workforce in this province who are not members of labour unions? Why don't you ask them?

**Hon Mr Allen:** In the first instance there are at least three bodies in the existing OTAB structure that will be able to speak on behalf of them in various ways. The employers who will be represented there will be employers representing companies that are both organized and unorganized. Organized labour always has a certain interest in the unorganized and will be trying to speak for them. Those who are—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. The minister may complete his response.

**Hon Mr Allen:** As I was saying, there are also equity groups which represent the population at large. There will be women on the board who also have an interest in women and their employment. I will just simply say if those who are unorganized out there want to have an organized voice to speak with, they know how to do it.

1500

#### PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orlino):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The Premier's guidelines are very clear about ministers' conduct at all times being able to bear the closest scrutiny. The other day in the House we had a minister of the crown, and it is recorded in Hansard, refer to members of the opposition as fascist bully boys. Today in the Legislature a minister of the crown referred to members of the opposition as hypocrites. I heard it very clearly, and it came from the Minister of Transportation. I would ask the Speaker to review this and to refer this to the Premier so that he can discipline his ministers in accordance with his guidelines.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order. The member raised a point of order with me, and I was about to address the point she raised. The member should know that the Speaker is to enforce the rules of the House, not anyone else's rules. The minister to whom she referred the other day withdrew the remark he had made. The remark which allegedly was made by someone else today, if such a remark was made, unfortunately I did not hear it nor was it raised at the time. Of course at all times I ask every member to try to restrain intemperate language. Indeed if any member of the House has during this past question

period said language which he or she would wish to withdraw at this time, that member does have an opportunity.

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and minister responsible for francophone affairs):** With the highest respect to the member opposite, it seems to me she doesn't know which minister said what. I would like to find out more about it. There is a problem, some confusion, and if we can help, we would only be delighted to help the member.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I am not sure that's helpful.

**Mrs Caplan:** During question period today the Minister of Transportation clearly—I know within hearing of the Minister of Health because she acknowledged it—called members of the opposition hypocrites. I'm calling on him to withdraw that, and further to draw to the Premier's attention the breach of his own guidelines by ministers in his government.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** With respect to language, the member will know that it's the practice in this House that when the Speaker hears remarks that are unparliamentary, the Speaker will ask the member to withdraw. If the Speaker does not hear the alleged remarks, then obviously it is up to the members to voluntarily withdraw those remarks if indeed they were made. Does the minister have anything to respond to at this point?

**Hon Mr Pouliot:** In this House of decorum and good manner, that kind of language obviously is more befitting others than it is befitting me. I did not say it.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I think we should move on. We were at petitions. The member for Nepean was patiently waiting to present his petition.

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** I'm quite prepared to wait a little bit longer if the minister wants to apologize. I do have the floor now? The minister is sure?

## PETITIONS

### THEME PARK

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** I have a petition here signed by some 32 constituents. Excuse me if I mispronounce some of the proper names, since they are not that familiar to me. The petition reads as follows:

"Whereas the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi of transcendental meditation, with the help of Canadian Doug Henning, announced he was going to build a \$1.5 billion theme park in Niagara Falls,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario to forbid this construction on the basis of their past failures to keep promises and because we have grave reservations concerning the intent and purpose of this entertainment facility.

"The need for separation between the state and religious organizations, however that term 'religious organization' may be defined, would be severely compromised by the government of Ontario granting permission to this gentleman to construct this proposed facility, for we, the undersigned, are of the opinion that the primary purpose would

be not for entertainment but rather for proselytization of persons. The giving of financial support, tax incentives or other government concessions would violate that principle of state non-involvement in religious organizations.

"We, the undersigned, do not wish to have the Maharishi Veda land project developed as a theme park and humbly petition you to reject the application from the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi or Doug Henning."

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### CITY OF VAUGHAN ACT, 1992

Mr Sorbara moved first reading of Bill Pr25, An Act respecting the City of Vaughan.

Motion agreed to.

### CARLETON BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 SUR LE RÈGLEMENT DU CONFLIT DE TRAVAIL ENTRE LE CONSEIL DE L'ÉDUCATION DE CARLETON ET SES ENSEIGNANTS

Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill 6, An Act respecting the Carleton Board of Education and Teachers Dispute / Loi concernant le conflit de travail entre le Conseil de l'éducation de Carleton et ses enseignants.

Motion agreed to.

1510

### REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA REPRÉSENTATION ÉLECTORALE

Mr Murdoch moved first reading of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Representation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la représentation électorale.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** This bill, the Representation Amendment Act, 1992, will change the name of my riding from Grey to Grey-Owen Sound. This would be a much more accurate description, as the present name implies I represent only Grey county which is not the case. I am also proud to represent the beautiful city of Owen Sound, which is independent of the county with 20,000 people, several small industries, active arts and athletic communities and is a four-season tourist destination. I feel it certainly deserves this recognition.

### OTTAWA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TEACHERS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 SUR LE RÈGLEMENT DU CONFLIT DE TRAVAIL ENTRE LE CONSEIL DE L'ÉDUCATION D'OTTAWA ET SES ENSEIGNANTS

Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill 10, An Act respecting the Ottawa Board of Education and Teachers Dispute / Loi concernant le conflit de travail entre le Conseil de l'éducation d'Ottawa et ses enseignants.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** Both this bill and the bill I introduced previously dealing with the Carleton Board of Education order or legislate the teachers back



to work in both the Carleton Board of Education and the Ottawa Board of Education. These bills differ slightly from the bills I introduced last week in that they provide for a final selection by the arbitrator of one offer or the other for both of those boards to settle the period of time between September 1, 1991, and December 31, 1991, in terms of the contract period and their pay. It does institute a 1%, 2% and 2% wage settlement for the years following, in alliance with what the Treasurer has chosen to transfer to those boards of education.

#### 372595 ONTARIO LIMITED ACT, 1992

Mr Ruprecht moved first reading of Bill Pr11, An Act to revive 372595 Ontario Limited.

Motion agreed to.

#### TOWN OF CALEDON ACT, 1992

Mr Tilson moved first reading of Bill Pr31, An Act respecting the Town of Caledon.

Motion agreed to.

### MOTIONS

#### COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Mr Cooke moved resolution 2:

That the following schedule for committee meetings be established for this session:

The standing committee on administration of justice may meet on Monday and Tuesday afternoons following routine proceedings; the standing committee on estimates may meet on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons following routine proceedings; the standing committee on finance and economic affairs may meet on Thursday mornings and Thursday afternoons following routine proceedings; the standing committee on general government may meet on Thursday mornings and Thursday afternoons following routine proceedings; the standing committee on government agencies may meet on Wednesday mornings; the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly may meet on Wednesday afternoons following routine proceedings; the standing committee on the Ombudsman may meet on Wednesday mornings; the standing committee on public accounts may meet on Thursday mornings; the standing committee on regulations and private bills may meet on Wednesday mornings; the standing committee on resources development may meet on Monday and Wednesday afternoons following routine proceedings; and the standing committee on social development may meet on Monday and Tuesday afternoons following proceedings; and that no standing or select committee may meet except in accordance with this schedule or as ordered by the House.

Motion agreed to.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr Cooke moved resolution 3:

That the membership of the standing committees for this session be as follows:

Standing committee on administration of justice: Ms Akande, Ms Carter, Mr Chiarelli, Mr Cooper, Mr Curling, Mr Harnick, Mr Mahoney, Mr Malkowski, Mr Morrow, Mr Runciman, Mr Wessinger and Mr Winninger;

Standing committee on estimates: Mr Bisson, Mr Carr, Mr Eddy, Mr Ferguson, Mr Frankford, Mr Jackson, Mr Lessard, Mrs Marland, Mr O'Connor, Mr Perruzza, Mr Ramsay and Mr Sorbara;

Standing committee on finance and economic affairs: Mrs Caplan, Mr Carr, Mr Christopherson, Mr Hansen, Mr Jamison, Mr Kwinter, Mr Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Mr Sterling, Mr Sutherland, Mr Ward (Brantford), Ms Ward (Don Mills) and Mr Wiseman;

Standing committee on general government: Mr Arnott, Mr Brown, Mr Ferguson, Mr Fletcher, Ms Harrington, Mr Hope, Mr Mammoliti, Mr Marchese, Mr McClelland, Mr Murdoch (Grey), Ms Poole and Mr Sola;

Standing committee on government agencies: Mr Bradley, Ms Carter, Mr Cleary, Mr Ferguson, Mr Frankford, Mr Grandmaitre, Mr Marchese, Mr McLean, Mr Runciman, Mr Stockwell, Mr Waters and Mr Wiseman;

Standing committee on the Legislative Assembly: Mr Cooper, Mr Duignan, Mr Farnan, Mr Johnson, Mrs Marland, Mrs Mathysen, Mr McClelland, Mr Mills, Mr Morin, Mr Owens, Mrs Sullivan and Mr Villeneuve;

Standing committee on the Ombudsman: Ms Akande, Mr Drainville, Mr Duignan, Ms Haeck, Mr Henderson, Mr Johnson, Mr Mclash, Mr Morrow, Mr Murdoch (Grey), Mr Perruzza, Mr Ramsay and Mrs Witmer;

Standing committee on public accounts: Mr Callahan, Mr Cordiano, Mr Cousens, Mr Duignan, Mr Frankford, Ms Haeck, Mr Hayes, Mr Johnson, Mr Mancini, Mr O'Connor, Mr Sorbara and Mr Tilson;

Standing committee on regulations and private bills: Mr Dadamo, Mr Eddy, Mr Farnan, Mr Fletcher, Mr Hansen, Mr Jordan, Mr Mills, Mr Ruprecht, Mr Sola, Mr Sutherland, Mr White and Mr Wilson (Simcoe West);

Standing committee on resources development: Mr Conway, Mr Dadamo, Mr Huget, Mr Jordan, Mr Klopp, Mr Kormos, Mr McGuinty, Ms Murdock (Sudbury), Mr Offer, Mr Turnbull, Mr Waters and Mr Wood;

Standing committee on social development: Mr Beer, Mr Daigeler, Mr Drainville, Mrs Fawcett, Mr Martin, Mrs Mathysen, Mrs O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Mr Owens, Mr White, Mr Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Mr Wilson (Simcoe West) and Mrs Witmer.

Motion agreed to.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

**Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland):** I won't take much time to finish off what I started yesterday, but just a few moments to recap my remarks.

As I said, with the throne speech as our evidence we see that the Premier reuses the NDP philosophy and ideology to try and reduce Ontario's confidence—I think he's doing that very nicely—and competitiveness. Then he has to recycle, or try to recycle, those fledgling initiatives of the last session.

I can tell you that the people of the province have witnessed the demise of our economy, the abandonment of our health care system and the total collapse of consultation and cooperation between the government and the people it was elected to serve. In my riding of Northumberland we are witnessing much unemployment, increasing welfare rolls, farms in distress, retail and small business collapsing daily, manufacturing gone for ever and individual municipalities and county councils that have to turn down road and equipment subsidies because they just don't want to have to increase their operating budgets to match their required funds to access the provincial money.

The proposed changes to the labour laws are a very contentious issue in Northumberland, but the Premier, it seems, will forge ahead regardless.

This government came to power largely due to the growing stridency and effectiveness of special interest groups pursuing their own narrow advantage. In fact, one look across the floor and we see a patchwork of advocates who stood on their soapboxes with the same singlemindedness. But now you are the government. Now you must govern for all the people, not just the vocal. When we hear a throne speech or see a budget, it must reflect the realities of all the people of this province.

The people across the province are saying no more crazy spending, no more record deficits, no more regulations which hamper their ability to live and work. They want to see initiatives that will help create and maintain investment in Ontario. They want a government to take initiative to meet the legitimate need of all the citizens it was created to serve.

I thank you for the opportunity to have made these few remarks on the throne speech.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Considering that this is a very important debate, I think we should have a quorum at least, and if not, more than seven members of the government.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin) ordered the bells rung.

1519

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I'm very pleased to respond to the speech from the throne today. This is a very critical time for our province—indeed, for our country. Ontario is facing its worst financial crisis in a generation and, frankly, people are frightened for the future. We know the country is in turmoil and indeed our very nation's future is in question. There's a feeling of instability and uncertainty.

In a recent survey, Ontarians ranked the economy as the number one concern on their list. The recession, as we all know, is lasting much longer and is more severe than was ever expected, and all too often we read that businesses and top professionals are leaving Ontario. Many in York Mills are very worried about the economic realities of today and the ability of this government to restore prosperity. Indeed, many are suffering severe hardship from unemployment and business failures. Others are struggling to survive in this economic climate. Once, our economic and social excellence was the envy of the world, and now

our economy is in shambles and our social programs are in danger.

Undoubtedly the Premier and his government alone are not to blame, but he is part of the problem. While I disagree with the NDP on a host of issues, the fact is that they inherited a ticking time bomb. Five years of Liberal government started us on a road of overspending, excessive taxation and obsessive regulation by trying to be all things to all people and catering to special interests.

They thwarted economic excellence. That was economically and socially irresponsible, because prosperity and social programs depend on the ability of our economy to sustain them. The escalating costs of our social programs must be brought under control or we'll not be able to support those who need a helping hand.

Our health care system was once widely acknowledged as being one of the finest in the world, but we know it is being rapidly eroded because expenditures are increasing faster than we can afford. Indeed this is a phenomenon that is happening throughout the world; it is not just in Canada, it is not just in Ontario, but nevertheless we must address it.

Our education system should certainly have taught us that throwing money at the system does not necessarily cure the problems, because when we consider that in Canada we spend the second-highest amount on education in the world per capita, the quality of the product is demonstrably not there.

If we fail to get government spending under control and if we fail to demand accountability from our education system and if we fail to demand excellence from our workers, then Ontario will never become competitive and our economy will never be fully revitalized. The challenge is there.

If we are willing to accept it, the goal of increased investment in Ontario is one I share with the government, although I do have some serious concerns about pension money being used as a substitute for private investment. I would suggest that if a project or a business cannot get funding from banks and from conventional sources, then it's probably not secure enough for pension money. This is a very dangerous precedent and I believe we put the future of many Ontario seniors at risk. We know the Canada pension plan is seriously underfunded and will probably never pay out to anybody but the very poorest people who are under 40 today, so let us not put their savings further at risk.

We know and we read every day about the fact that Ontario's economy is stagnant. At least 260,000 jobs were lost last year alone. The throne speech states, and I would like to agree, that a strong economy depends on a flourishing business sector. But while the throne speech makes wonderful statements about cooperation and partnership with business, this government is being judged on its actions, not its words. Its attack on the private sector, as demonstrated in the housing and day care fields, ambulance companies and driver- and vehicle-licensing offices proves the intent much more than the words.

Let's have a look at a bit of recent history. In November, we had a minister of the crown stand in this House



and commit that there would be no changes to the way licensing offices do business—I notice the minister is perking up now when he hears this—yet two months later, he went to Management Board and got acceptance. Minister, you can nod your head all your like, but the fact is that in this House you said you would not change the way licence offices do business, and two months later you got funds from Management Board to buy several machines, automated tellers, which are going to dispense licences on a test basis. You are going to buy those machines, you are going to service them and you are going to put people out of business.

Last year, licence-issuing offices had significantly less income than in any previous year. In this particular case, we have in the private sector the licence-issuing offices, offices which cost 3% of the gross to administer; 3% covers the rent, the utilities, the pay, all the benefits and the profit to these people. There is not one single arm of government which is delivering services as efficiently as this sector, yet, because these are non-unionized jobs—1,500 non-unionized jobs—the government would like to replace them with automats.

It's very curious, because this is the very government that we heard in question period is absolutely excluding the 60% of workers who are non-unionized from any contribution to the input process with respect to OTAB.

We were told, and it was quite interesting, that the public sector was not going to intrude on this part of the business of private industry. Those are fine words, but it doesn't change the reality. This government is out to destroy the private sector in many areas. This government has earned the reputation of being anti-business. While it purports to hear, it doesn't really listen. Perceptions cannot be changed by words alone. Indeed, if this government is serious about restoring confidence, it must stop actions as hostile to business and rescind policies which threaten the private sector.

Ontario businesses face the most burdensome tax climate in Canada; indeed, in the whole of North America. Businesses are getting taxed to death right now by all three and, in many cases, four levels of government. But what is particularly harmful is the payroll tax levied on provincial businesses at the provincial level. There is no longer a profit margin to accommodate an increase in health tax or the Worker's Compensation Board. Businesses have quite simply had enough.

Once, industry had the advantage of cheaper electricity, but this was lost when Ontario Hydro too became large and costly as a bureaucracy and the province forced it into a new role as a social agent. This has meant reneging on their mandate to provide energy at cost. I find it very curious when ministers across sit in stitches. They know that what I'm saying is correct: We're forcing Ontario Hydro to become an agent of social change in this province instead of fulfilling its mandate of energy at cost, which served Ontario very well and brought a lot of industry to the province.

Workers contribute to their pension and they contribute to the unemployment fund. Is it not reasonable to ask them

to contribute something to the cost of their own health benefits?

1530

This government must announce that there will be no new tax increases in the spring budget, and that is action business will respect. That is the action needed if Ontario is ever to recover. The old saying, "Businesses don't vote, they walk," is indeed true and we cannot afford any more of these businesses walking. We need to stop them and persuade them that Ontario will become a more friendly administration towards their needs.

This government seems to believe that labour-management relations can be improved through greater unionization and greater union bargaining powers. It fails to appreciate that good relations involves goodwill on two sides, not an unbalanced power on one side. The proposed labour law reforms will polarize labour and management relations just when we need greater cooperation. A recent study by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business found that these reforms could cost Ontario \$10 billion to \$20 billion.

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and minister responsible for francophone affairs):** Come on, David.

**Mr Turnbull:** It's very curious. Once again I see the same minister saying, "Come on," but this is a government which has not produced one single study as to the impact. There have been many independent studies, but the government has failed to bring forward a study. They are going to kill 200,000 to 500,000 jobs. Who knows how many investors or companies, both foreign and domestic, have already written us off? Indeed I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that I have spoken to a lot of European companies which are saying they will not invest in Ontario with this administration.

Now that may make us very smug and we may say, "Okay, the investment goes until they go," but in the meantime the people of Ontario and the people of York Mills suffer because of this government, which does not have a mandate for sweeping change and which got less of the popular vote than Frank Miller. Indeed, this is a government which has shown its very colours in such a short time and needs to be woken up to the fact that there are more people in Ontario than just big, unionized labour.

The Premier proudly points to Ford of Canada as an example that business is investing in Ontario. Today the Globe and Mail quotes the vice-president of Ford as saying it is still withholding judgement on Ontario as a place to do business. "What we're taking into account here"—and he is referring to the investment decision of \$2 billion announced yesterday—"are the recent pronouncements by the Premier in which he indicates that he has listened to and reflected on the opposition from the business community to the labour law and that he will not place Ontario at a competitive disadvantage." I hope those pronouncements by the Premier are not like other announcements which, like all of his election promises, he will dismiss by saying, "That was then and this is now."

The Ontario government has yet to produce a single study of its own, as I mentioned before. It arrogantly dismisses all

the concerns. I suggest that is not the way to forge the partnership with business talked about in the throne speech. Instead of pitting business against labour and workers against management and creating further divisions, we need to find solutions by bringing people together. It's a radical NDP proposal that's already costing us investment and jobs. Mr Premier, scrap it and declare Ontario open for business.

My constituents know the high borrowing of this government means higher taxes for years to come, yet there was no mention about the heavy tax burden that residents and businesses must bear. When I speak to my constituents the message is consistent: Our generation must learn to live within its means. It's morally wrong for us to push our problems off on to our children, with massive debt, and it's disappointing to note there are no specific plans on reducing government operating costs and the number of civil servants. We know the Liberals added 9,000 civil servants during their five years in office, along with many other things they vested upon us.

Last year we saw a 13.4% increase in spending of \$6.3 billion, yet only \$1 billion can be blamed on social assistance increases. The remainder was due to an increase in departmental budgets, this despite all the pleadings of our party to have some restraint at a time when people were losing jobs. This year, despite holding hospitals and schools to 1% and claims of frugality, based on figures revealed by the Treasurer on January 21 of this year the government is looking at spending actually going up by 10% when inflation is running at 2%. That's five times the inflation rate this year, and that is also after massive shifts of spending from the last fiscal year into this year. We will see a 26% increase on a public sector pension plan, spending on non-profit housing will be going up by 44% and legal aid costs will increase by 70%.

There will never be an opportunity for tax relief under the Premier, and we know there will be limited opportunities for tax relief under future governments because of what this government is doing now to the position of Ontario. This government must stop spending money that promotes its socialist agenda but does not produce any jobs or services for the people of Ontario. I call on this government to get its spending under control, to stop the nationalization of day care, to get the private sector back into the housing field so it can build low-cost housing more cheaply and more efficiently than government ever did it, and to cancel the labour law proposals.

My riding of York Mills is a wonderful, good place to live, but each year more and more of my constituents are expressing concern about the livability, the quality of life and the healthiness of Metropolitan Toronto as a community. They read press reports showing an increase in crime, morale problems in the police corps, in no small degree by this government's appointment to chair the police board of a perceived anti-police advocate, and they worry about their personal safety. Job loss is high and the cost of living is increasing. The property tax burden is such that many are in danger of losing their homes. Mine is an affluent riding, but nevertheless there are many people who are hurting who cannot take the burden of the government

mandating programs but pushing all the cost over to the municipal governments.

Metro residents support four levels of very expensive government. The number of trustees in Metro, 112, totals more than the Senate and every provincial government in Canada with the exception of Ontario and Quebec. Residents very rightly complain they cannot afford the bill. The Premier continues to whine about Ontario not getting its fair share from the federal government. Well, Premier, Metro Toronto is not getting its fair share from your government either. We're not getting any funding for education, and Metro Toronto and Ottawa are the only places in the province that get no funding for education.

We have the lowest level of support for transit systems in the whole of North America here in Metro and unfair taxes like the commercial concentration tax. Do you remember the commercial concentration tax? That is the commercial concentration tax that the Premier, when he was on the campaign stump, said he would get rid of. I guess that was then and this is now. Do you sense a degree of outrage at the unfairness?

During the election the government under the now Premier promised education funding at 60%. This would relieve some of the excessive property tax burden on Metro residences. We're still waiting.

1540

**Hon Mr Pouliot:** Spend, spend, spend.

**Mr Turnbull:** It's very curious that a minister heckles, "Spend, spend, spend." No, quite the reverse. What I'm saying is that we should not be spending in the foolish ways this government is spending. They are wasting money on subsidized housing instead of getting the private sector to build it without taxpayers' dollars. Let's get money into the hands of the people who need it, the needy. This is a concept this government cannot understand because it is dedicated to delivering money to its union friends and nothing else.

As its last gift to Metro Toronto, the Liberals gave us the commercial concentration tax. This final discriminating tax grab by the Liberals is an invasion of the historic right of municipalities to tax property, the major source of revenue for cities. This odious tax harmed businesses and communities throughout Metro and we're suffering from it now. I'd remind the Premier that he always promised to remove it. Premier, you've had two years. Maybe you forgot your promises. You seem to have forgotten a lot of promises.

My constituents looked to the throne speech for leadership on the constitutional crisis. What vision does this government have for the country? What does the throne speech say on the constitutional crisis? Not one word. His government has nothing to say on the direction Ontario will take in seeing that the country stays together despite internal bickering. Ontarians have always shown goodwill to the rest of the country. My constituents in York Mills and I share a belief in the importance of a strong and united Canada. The constitutional challenge before us is both formidable and daunting, but a challenge I believe we are capable of meeting. It must begin with the willingness



to reach out and say: "Let's stay together. We are all stronger by being together. Divided, we are weak."

We need a more affordable, responsive, effective and less intrusive government. It's necessary to control the size and the cost of government and its various agencies. Only then will Ontario's economy be able to grow and expand. Spending controls and cutbacks will send a message to the business community that this government is serious about getting its own house in order.

**Hon Mr Pouliot:** Give us some examples.

**Mr Turnbull:** Once again the Minister of Transportation heckles, "Give us some examples." We have consistently given examples. We are the only party in opposition that has ever come forward with a document midterm suggesting alternatives that this government can take up, and it is welcome to take them up. You're not just stealing our thunder. We want the economy of Ontario stronger so that the workers and the taxpayers of Ontario have a future. It's called A Blueprint for the Future. It is a vision of how we see our party or your party addressing the needs of this province.

Government cannot be captive to special interest groups. That philosophy should have been finished when the Liberals were turfed out of office. Unfortunately the only thing that has changed is the interest groups.

There's a critical need to maintain, stimulate and attract investment in Ontario. This government can begin that process by cancelling the labour reforms and starting an honest and open dialogue between labour and management.

The throne speech is disappointing because it does not respond to Ontario's desperate need for economic stimulation. I call on the government to bring in policies based on common sense, not ideology, that will restore a sense of confidence to our business community and economic renewal to our province.

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** I would like to comment. The member who just spoke talked about special interest groups, and the member for Northumberland, when she was talking, talked about special interest groups. It is interesting what people define as special interest groups. People seem to think those groups that advocate for people who are homeless, for the poor or for the disadvantaged are somehow special interest groups but that groups such as the chamber of commerce or another important group in my riding, the federation of agriculture, or whatever, aren't special interest groups. The reality is, whether you're a business group or whether you're an advocate for the poor or the homeless, they're all special interest groups. It's important to remember that and that all governments take into account what all the groups are saying in trying to come up with the appropriate balance.

The member also talked about Ontario Hydro and its rates going up and paying for use, that Ontario Hydro's policy used to be paying hydro at cost. It's interesting to note what his definition of "at cost" is. Is at cost just paying the operating bills but you let your debt keep accumulating more and more, as Ontario Hydro did? The fact is, we've never had it where we've paid hydro at cost. If we had paid hydro at cost, Ontario Hydro wouldn't have

the large accumulated debt it now has. That's the simple reality of the situation.

The member also talked about sending a strong message. I'm not sure if everyone has read the same throne speech I heard, but clearly there was a message of investment in people, in the province, in the infrastructure. That is a very strong message to everyone that we are concerned about true economic renewal in this province.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** I want to congratulate the member for York Mills for giving a well-thought-out, for the most part, speech in response to the throne speech. I find it interesting how the Conservative caucus—I don't know if it's out of guilt from past governments or whatever—finds it necessary to throw barbs in wild directions without any real clarity, without any substance.

I want to point out to the member who just spoke that he referred to the chamber of commerce and the federation of agriculture, and there is the CFIB, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. There is no question that these are interest groups, just the same as groups representing people concerned about poverty. What you don't understand and what most people on the government side don't understand is that those groups are equally concerned about poverty. What you people believe in is redistribution of wealth. What you don't understand is that you must create the wealth before you can possibly redistribute it.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** Oh, thank you for this thought.

**Mr Mahoney:** That's the simple reality: You must create the wealth, Madam Minister of Housing, as if you would know the first thing about it. The reality is that what you are doing is driving business underground. You are driving them into the United States, you are driving them bankrupt, and you refuse to understand that there are some simple changes you could make. You could back off some of your policies that are driven purely by ideology and put in some things that are common sense. We understand that you've got some things you want to deliver in your agenda, but without the business community, without the chambers and the boards of trade and the federations, you're simply not going to be able to do it and you're going to bankrupt this province as you bankrupt the business community.

1550

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** The member who referred to the speech of my colleague the member for York Mills as being one which threw wild barbs towards the Liberals fails to understand that the slide into our economic recession in this province did in fact start under the former Liberal government. It was the former Liberal government, as the member for York Mills said, that introduced the commercial concentration tax, the employer health tax and 33 other taxes, and took the bureaucracy of this province from 80,000 to 88,000 in a mere five years. That's why they are no longer the government.

However, we heard worse things today. In fact, in the House this afternoon we heard the worst statement we



have yet heard in 18 months of this Bob Rae socialist government in Ontario. This afternoon we heard the Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development, in answer to a very pertinent, well-expressed question by the member for London North, say that if people want access to the government, "There are ways." I wish I had the Instant Hansard in front of me because there was no question that the way the government was saying they can be organized, they were saying unions.

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** He didn't say that.

**Mrs Marland:** Well, the Instant Hansard will confirm it for us and we will get it later on this afternoon.

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and minister responsible for francophone affairs):** I too very much enjoyed the contribution from the member for York Mills. I know him to be hardworking on behalf of his constituents. I know him to be honest. I know him to be sincere. Some of those qualities, when taken to extremes, bring forth the opinions of what I would have hoped this amiable representative would see as balance. He is so entrenched in his ways. He wishes to be responsible, yet, repeatedly, the Ministry of Transportation, through me, has offered, and it was not something said matter-of-factly but with all the sincerity at our command—we have made some headway to brief the honourable member so that when he conveys to the people here and, more important, the viewers in Ontario, he would at least have the right information.

I invite him to start from the premise that the cup is always half full, never half empty. When you say the transit system is not doing very well, with respect to you, we are the envy of North America, indeed the envy of the world. This is a system at work and a system that works.

I know the member would not wish to impute motives, but I just wish to set the record straight. In terms of partnership and reciprocity, our door is always open, so it will make two of us well informed on transportation.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** The member for York Mills, you have two minutes to reply.

**Mr Turnbull:** I would have done it in the original rotation, but I have to go to the Minister of Transportation after his last statement. I would remind him that the Conservative government built the excellent transit system in Ontario, particularly in Toronto. The minister talks about briefing; I would direct him to his briefing papers, and he would very quickly find that funding for transit under the Liberals dropped like a stone. That's a matter of record.

Surprisingly, immediately before the last election, suddenly there was a grandiose scheme announced where they were going to pump in all kinds of money, money that we really haven't seen, money that wasn't coming out of the traditional sources of funds. It was being raised by a commercial concentration tax, which this government was committed to getting rid of if elected. But like all their election platform, it was a myth. It was completely illusory. That was then; this is now.

We have a government that is intellectually devoid of any ability to govern. I am amazed they do not recognize the fact that throughout the province not just Tory MPPs

but Liberals too are being asked, "Can't we impeach this government? Can't we impeach Bob Rae?" I am amazed at the political naïveté of people, but seriously, people are asking that question, because they are so disgusted with the direction in which this government is taking the province. Unless they address it quickly, our province has a very bleak future.

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** It is my pleasure to rise today in support of the speech from the throne. I was impressed with the intertwining of compassion and productivity in that speech. I would like to discuss those two essential thrusts and how they are supported within our government's directions.

I come from a riding that is exemplified by impressive social institutions and by the industry that motivates Canada. In fact, the Buick was an Oshawa product; before there was a General Motors, there was a McLaughlin Buick, originally a Canadian car. Like the rest of Ontario, my region is typified by both compassion and productivity. In my riding there are also three fine hospitals, the Whitby General Hospital, the Oshawa General Hospital and the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital. There are excellent services for the elderly, including two homes for the aged and two nursing homes. The region of Durham offers excellent quality family services.

All of these local services are dependent upon our government. Intrinsically, however, they are all dependent upon the strength and productivity of our industrial community. These institutions serve and are served by our local industries. We can depend upon each other. The people and industries of Oshawa and Whitby look after themselves.

Ontario has been blessed with a richness of natural resources and a diversity of talented peoples. We've also met the challenges of our great province and become the industrial heartland of our nation. We've accomplished a great deal as a people and as a province by combining our hard work and our genuine caring for all of our community. We have created a richness virtually unrivalled elsewhere in the world. Our traditions as a province and as a people have created a bountiful fabric in our community through both industry and compassion.

We have huge challenges in front of us. We can see the threats to the benefits and bounty our community has grown accustomed to. These challenges are a continual threat to the preservation of the fine community institutions and programs we have created and rely upon.

In the midst of a severe recession, our federal government is savaging the security of such national treasures as our schools and the health care which the elderly and the very young depend upon.

Meeting these challenges while still maintaining the healthy and productive values we have long cherished will be the real test of our ability as a province and as a government.

The throne speech emphasizes the necessity of combining productivity and caring in a decent and healthy society. This is a very basic combination, essential to progressive, modern communities and implicit in our province's development to the present. The very fact that these basic values



need to be restated says something about the challenges we are presently facing.

1600

The connection of caring and productivity defines the health of our community. Were we to focus upon community values to the exclusion of profitability and productivity, our community's resources would stagnate and wither. Similarly, a profit-driven economy with a total indifference to social and community values is a failed economy. There will always be debate in our community and tension in our community between these two values. Regardless, they are essential to each other.

At the turn of the century, Freud defined a healthy individual as one who could both work and love. Freud saw those values both as necessary and as opposite. A healthy individual must be able to be productive and engage in a caring way with others. Similarly, I would suggest that those who are unable to see the community or social contexts of their actions are living shallow and meaningless lives.

There was a bumper sticker a few years ago that proclaimed, "He who dies with the most toys wins." The most toys. How sick, how spiritually and socially barren the adherent to that simplistic slogan must be. Its emphasis is upon death and upon barren accumulation. His self-worth is measured by the possessions he can surround himself with and by accumulating more than others. He might as well say, "He wins who can bear the most cow chips."

Similarly, I've heard of a man who has accumulated 70 pairs of Gucci loafers. Can you imagine this chap spending hours standing in his clothes closet basking in the reflected glory of Italian footwear? Just imagine what kind of a social and personal value he must bring to bear upon his work.

But this absurd collection of luxurious leather is not a mere quirk or anomaly in this man's character. It is in fact emblematic and symptomatic of his person. This man has a very high position in our federal government and directs the very cutbacks that have hobbled our province's ability to fiscally respond to the challenges that his economic policies have brought upon us.

**Mrs Marland:** This is sick, Drummond.

**Mr White:** Yes, it is indeed sick. As a province we have been the victim of this man and his policies of selfishness and shortsightedness. They have systematically introduced policies that have flown in the face of our nation's history and in fact of the very party he leads. They are based upon an ideology that is foreign to us as Canadians and inimical to us as Ontarians. They profoundly lack the context of caring and productivity that is the cornerstone of our nation's development.

The intent of his group is to gut the programs of the caring and compassion that have always complemented and given meaning to our nation's productivity. They define economic enterprise to the exclusion of social connection. For them, competition is the single and bloody-minded pursuit of wealth. Like the accumulation of toys or shoes, it is the pursuit of wealth without meaning and one which will depend upon a community of disparity.

Over the course of the last few years we have seen the middle class of our nation and our province diminished by the assaults that the federal government has offered us. We have borne the brunt of the federal deficit and the Tory shift from progressive taxation to such regressive burdens as the GST. In social programs there have been gradual, incremental diminutions punctuated by crude blows.

A good example was the national day care program. In good faith the previous provincial government matched the promised moneys, but for half a decade, funding was delayed. Now, finally the federal government has acknowledged that the national day care program is as bankrupt as its social vision. Similarly, they have ended the universality of the family allowance program that we have taken as an integral part of our social fabric for so many years. After chipping away at it for years with clawbacks and no indexation, they now have sliced it away from half of Canadians who have come to rely upon it.

The free trade deal was neither free nor in our interests. The results of that pact have greatly exceeded the very worst predictions of the Pro-Canada Network, which was opposed to that deal. Perhaps we could forgive Mr Mulroney and his partisans thinking that he had gambled and lost. Perhaps we could generously think he believed the deal was in the best interests of Canada. But his subsequent actions show that such forgiveness and generosity would be tragically misplaced.

Mr Mulroney promised there would be help for the workers who were dislocated by free trade. There has been nothing forthcoming; indeed, the federal government has cut back on its participation in training programs. That training and adjustment is essential if our province is to remain a major industrial force. Your government has had to assume responsibility for the damages created by their actions.

We also see their selfishness and shortsightedness in their cutbacks to essential social programs. The cost of health care, education, universities and social supports have been increasingly delegated to the provinces, particularly to the province of Ontario. As we know, this will cost our government up to \$10 billion by the end of the coming fiscal year.

Despite the fervency and currency of this ideology of greed, it is as profoundly foreign to our business community as it is to our entire community. It's been my pleasure throughout my life and throughout my experience as an MPP to know a whole range of people in my community. Most of the business people I know are genuinely civic-minded. Many participate on health care boards and in social and community agencies. They share profound concerns about threats to our environmental safety. Like all of us, they grumble about taxes and government inefficiencies. On the other hand, I have run into very few who engage in simplistic billboard capitalism. Like other community members, business people know that we are all in this together and together we must find solutions.

Last weekend I participated in a forum in Oshawa that was driven primarily by local business groups and was designed to find solutions to the dilemma our community is faced with. These were people who were profoundly



committed to working together with labour and government in wresting hope from the jaws of difficulty. These were people who could see our common context and the need to ensure a caring and productive community.

The throne speech emphasizes our willingness to work together with such groups towards an economic recovery and a prosperity that will benefit all our province. I am thankful that our province is typified by such community-minded leadership and not by jingoistic or simplistic solutions to our problems. Indeed, such problems invite those simplistic solutions, but they have only come forth from a very small number.

I feel sure that, group by group and region by region, we'll be able to move forward. When our economy falters, those with the least suffer the most. They are the ones who will most likely suffer unemployment and the tremendous blow that offers to our sense of who we are.

In our civilization we are measured by what we do and what we can accomplish. To be unemployed casts women and men in a predicament where they no longer can feel they're participating in the mainstream of our community life. They feel that they are no longer full citizens. They start to see themselves as outsiders, as an underclass in their own homes and their own neighbourhoods.

Family life suffers as depression and avoidance and denial of the central fact of their lives take over. Many families break up as teenagers prematurely move away from an increasingly difficult home life or as couples collapse under the strain of not being able to carry the extra burden this loss has meant for them. Some families manage and even adaptively respond, but few are spared the damage that impoverishment and meaninglessness convey.

As a marriage and family therapist I well remember the differences between well-resourced families and those families who were disadvantaged. After a few sessions I was usually able to see the well-off overcome their difficulties and get past the stuck point in their lives. The disadvantaged were so burdened with the constant stresses of just managing that they couldn't focus for more than a few minutes on the problems within their marriages. They usually needed much more than I could provide. The situations required more than counselling alone. Together we did some things and recognized how much was left, how much was the wound that their disadvantages had left them.

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My constituency office has organized several meetings with unemployed workers in my community. The plight of those people is incredible. Job-searching is now a high-tech skill. Where earlier one sent applications or made contact with only a few selected employers, now an entry-level position is the target of hundreds of applications. These workers are now skilled at getting through numerous hoops and barriers just to get to personnel managers. Older workers are now facing the uncertainties that earlier only those in their teens and early twenties had to face.

The unemployed do not want social assistance and welfare. It is not the answer to their problems. The long-term answer is secure and meaningful employment. On the other hand, while they're making the transition back to full

employment they do need our support. In the best of times many of these families can struggle through and manage. In times like these, I am proud we have a government that will not abandon those among us who have been most cruelly hurt.

The throne speech emphasizes the primacy of getting our province back to work and back on track. The Ontario Training and Adjustment Board initiative should be a real boost both to displaced workers and to those who need to update their current job skills. This coordinated thrust should be a major step in regaining our industrial leadership. We'll be securing new sources of investment capital and enabling new ventures by cutting the red tape of government.

At the same time we'll continue to move forward with several thrusts toward fairness. The Ontario Labour Relations Act will be transformed for the first time in 15 years to bring it into line with the realities of the 1990s. There are now more women and part-time workers than ever in the workforce, and more service jobs. We've heard from billboard capitalists that Ontario cannot afford to extend labour rights to women and part-time workers. We've heard that these workers can wait and that their time and their right to choose should be delayed until better times.

My community has had a history of organizing in bad times. In 1934, in the midst of the Depression, the auto workers of Oshawa established their right to dignity and their union. The government of the day, a Liberal government, bitterly opposed them. They dispatched a gang of vigilantes, Hepburn's Hussars, against those workers. Funny enough, General Motors didn't suffer and didn't crack under the weight of this union in the midst of the Depression, nor do I think that fairness and dignity will so severely affect industries now.

The inherent fairness of pay equity will be extended to a further 400,000 women who were left out of the original legislation. Employment equity legislation will ensure that the talents and abilities of all our people are being utilized. We will not abandon our commitments to fairness or to maintaining our essential public services. Yes, we have taken on challenges of managing them better, but that doesn't mean they will be any less effective or any less important to the students, the ill and the elderly in our province.

In my community these services are important. They are what gives our industry and our productivity context and meaning. I believe the people of Ontario count upon us to succeed in this endeavour to surmount the huge economic challenges the present recession has thrust upon us without abandoning a context of decency and fairness. I believe that in doing so we'll be meeting the historic combination of industry and compassion that has typified our great province.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Are there any questions or comments? Any other members who wish to participate in this debate? I see two people.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I thank the member for Mississauga West, who is actually the person



in charge of those who are speaking. I was of the understanding that I was next on the list.

**Mr Mahoney:** You've only got three minutes.

**Mr Bradley:** The member for Mississauga West has given me to three minutes after 6 to complete my remarks.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the throne debate. I was under the impression that I would be doing so some time earlier in the year. I was just talking to a man by the name of Bruce Williamson and a man by the name of Vince Dougall the other day, and both said to me how surprised they were that the government of Ontario had not had the House reconvene in February or March of this year. Normally under the parliamentary calendar the House would have come back on March 8 or 9 of this year. That was postponed, because of the government House leader insisting upon it, to March 23, and then of course postponed one more time to April 6.

I think there are many people in Ontario who believe their members of the Legislature should be hard at work here in the Legislative Assembly, dealing with the problems that confront the province. I thought I would have had this opportunity a month and a half or two months ago, to be able to deal with a speech from the throne, which is an outline of government policies.

I want to dwell on a number of items, members will be pleased to know. One of the items you won't be surprised to know I want to deal with is the automotive industry. Members of the Legislature will recall that during the fall session and the previous spring session of the Ontario Legislature I asked a number of questions about the automotive industry and I expressed several concerns through those questions and through speeches in this House.

I directed the questions to the Premier, for instance, and to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, the Treasurer and the Minister of Labour. I expressed, although I was hoping I would not be a prophet at the time, grave concern about the General Motors operation in St Catharines. Specifically I can recall, and Hansard will have recorded this, that I raised the issue of the future of the foundry and the engine plant in St Catharines during my questions to the Premier, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and the Treasurer.

There was a lot of concern magnified in December 1991 when Mr Stempel, who is the president of General Motors, announced that some 74,000 jobs would be eliminated from the North American operation of General Motors. We heard an announcement made on a fateful day in late February in St Catharines and in other places around North America that about 14,000 of those jobs were going to be eliminated at specific places.

I think what concerns many of us who represent the Niagara Peninsula and other areas which are noted for the production of automobiles, particularly those which are General Motors operations, is that there are 60,000 more jobs to be eliminated worldwide if one is to take the word of the president of General Motors into consideration and say that is an accurate estimate of the reduction of the workforce.

The concern I have rests of course with the general state of the economy that exists in North America and around the world at this time. We essentially have three levels of government that can be of assistance or can be a detriment, and the decision-making process of General Motors as it relates to its future operations. Because of laws we have in Ontario, the municipalities really have a minor effect on this, although keeping their tax rate at what industry considers to be a reasonable rate is one of the tools they can use. They cannot grant special concessions as they can in many places in the United States.

The municipal level of government, whether it approves the direct purchase of hydro-electric power or of electric power from Ontario Hydro, or whether it keeps its taxes down or whether it's just a community that opens its doors to industry and to business, can have at least some effect.

The two other levels of government, however, have a more substantial effect on the decision-making process of General Motors and other companies. The federal government, for instance, is responsible overall for the economy of Canada.

I noticed a rather interesting presentation which was made. It was a guest column written in the *Financial Post* on Thursday, March 19, 1992, by Jim Peterson, the MP for Willowdale who is the federal Liberal Industry critic. I thought it contained some rather interesting information that I wish everybody in Ontario, and indeed everyone in Canada, would be aware of.

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In writing about this particular situation confronting the automotive industry in North America, Mr Peterson says the following:

"Canada's auto parts and assembly industry employs 102,805 workers, is our largest manufacturing sector, largest exporter of manufactured goods and largest capital investor.

"Our automotive sector flourished under the 1965 auto pact provisions for 'managed trade' by assuring Canada a fair share of North American auto jobs. Its 'safeguard' provisions required US automakers to meet Canadian production and value added targets. To sell a car duty-free into Canada, a car or its equivalent had to be produced in Canada, thus guaranteeing Canadian jobs.

"Unfortunately, our Canada-US free trade agreement negotiators wiped out the auto pact safeguards by eliminating the tariffs that enforced them. When our 9.2% tariff on autos is fully eliminated in 1998, the Big Three can shift all their assembly to the US, buy no parts from Canada and, as long as the cars have 50% North American content, can sell them duty-free into Canada."

Mr Peterson goes on to say: "Under the free trade agreement, Canada gave up the duty remission programs it used to attract Japanese and other foreign auto assemblers to Canada in the first place. Now it is clear that our secure access to the US market promised under the agreement is just one more broken commitment.

"In the three years under the agreement, 27,213 or 21% of Canada's auto jobs have been lost, while the US has lost only 9%. With our auto job losses at 2½ times—or 2⅓ times—"the US rate, the recession cannot be the sole culprit,



nor is it simply a case of US 'harassment.' Much of the blame must fall on the free trade agreement, which eliminated the auto pact safeguards, has inadequate content rules and has no binding arbitration for content disputes.

"One answer to the agreement's shortcomings is renegotiation, failing which Canada could give six months' notice of termination. Another is trilateral renegotiation through a future North American free trade agreement.

"It is difficult to predict the US reaction to our need for changes when 80% of our exports go to the US. But it is critical these contingencies be worked out in advance to ensure that divorce wouldn't be worse than our marriage.

"Whichever course is chosen, it is clear that changes to the Canada-US free trade agreement are critical to Canada. Amendments should follow the recommendations of the Liberal Party task force on de-industrialization and economic renewal, which called for changes to ensure Canadian jobs, content and value added in our automotive sector:

"1. North American content: The 50% North American content rule under the agreement should be increased to 75% to ensure that duty-free status is accorded to only those manufacturers who create jobs and significant value added in North America.

"Goods imported into Canada to be incorporated or transformed into other products should be considered North American only to the extent of true domestic content: A 'substantial transformation' of imported goods should not, as at present, result in a 'rollup' of value to 100% domestic content.

"2. Canadian content: Unlike in the agreement, we must have Canadian content rules that, like the auto pact safeguards, guarantee Canada a fair share of auto jobs.

"Detroit and the Japanese propose no national content rules, leaving them free to re-establish anywhere in North America. The CAW seeks 65% Canadian content and our auto parts manufacturers' association wants 50%.

"Any proposal requiring production or purchasing in Canada equal to less than the full value of a carmaker's sales in Canada would not assure us our fair share of jobs.

"3. Dispute settlement: Arbitration must be binding for all disputes, not just those the US agrees should be binding.

"4. Common tariff against other countries: The common tariff erected against other countries should be sufficient to ensure a fair share of the North American market to domestic producers.

"Canada's 9.2% tariff has proven inadequate to date. Thirty-seven per cent of our market has been taken over by non-American producers such as the Japanese and Germans, but they account for only 3% of our auto jobs.

"Consumers and foreign manufacturers will naturally complain if car imports are restricted, arguing that protectionism is wrong. It may be wrong, but it is what our competitors do. The European Community is now debating whether it will allow 15% or 17% of foreign car penetration by the year 2000. Foreign cars account for only 3% of the Japanese market.

"Foreigners should either produce their fair share in Canada or have their share of our market restricted to at least the European Community's limit of 15% to 17%. In

conclusion, renegotiation is critical to undo the harm of the free trade agreement and ensure Canada a fair share of auto jobs. Canada must not sign any new deal that does not meet these minimal standards."

This was written in the Financial Post under the "Comment and Opinion" headline in the Thursday, March 19, 1992, edition. As I said, it was written by Jim Peterson, who is the federal MP for Willowdale and the federal Liberal Industry.

That represents some good suggestions, I think, within the realm of the federal government, but we in this Legislature must deal with matters which are under provincial jurisdiction and I want to offer a few suggestions about what we might do in Ontario.

Members would know, particularly those who have experienced this in their own constituencies, that the loss of a substantial number of jobs is a major shock to a community. In fact, the announcement that really meant 3,000 jobs disappearing from General Motors in St Catharines was somewhat devastating to our community. We have a lot of resiliency and we have people who are prepared to work hard to bring in new industry or to encourage the present industry to stay there, but nevertheless on that fateful day in February when the announcement was made there was a good deal of shock and dismay, and surprise, frankly, for many in the city of St Catharines.

The announcement that was made was first of all—and this was a previous announcement—that some 750 employees would be laid off indefinitely. That's often translated into permanently when one looks at the statistics of indefinite layoffs in many of the industries. So as of March 1, those 750 people are out of a job and they're facing that critical situation at the present time, not at some time in the future.

The announcement that was made by Mr Stempel in Detroit indicated that the foundry would be closing by 1995 in St Catharines. This is a foundry which is considered to be among the best in North America. Certainly, if you were to ask those who were employed in the foundry and those who are knowledgeable about it, they would tell you that, first of all, the plant operation itself is extremely efficient, and second, the workforce is extremely efficient. So there were many in the operation in St Catharines who were very surprised that General Motors would make a decision to close this particular operation and thereby put in excess of 2,000 people out of work.

In addition to this, although a big portion of the engine plant remains in St Catharines, we had the 3.1-litre V-8 engine production terminated by the fall of this year.

Those three pieces of bad news add up to over 3,000 jobs being lost to the city of St Catharines. You can imagine the effect on our community, but this represents not simply statistics. All of us know that who have to deal with people on a daily basis. We're not talking about numbers here; we're talking about our friends, our neighbours, our relatives, people we know in the community. In my case, having been a teacher and a coach in various sports, some of those people are directly affected, people I saw go through the education system and those I saw on the playing field or on the ice. Those are people who are now



growing up and having their own families and building their own lives and have had their hopes dashed by this particular announcement that there would be these permanent layoffs and this loss of jobs in St Catharines.

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The spinoff in the community is also something to be considered, because there are those directly affected by this job loss, by this discontinuation of the engine plant line and by the closing of the foundry in St Catharines and by the indefinite 750 layoffs, but there are also others who supply the industry, who supply both products to the industry itself and supplies to those who work in that industry, and those people are going to be directly affected by this particular announcement.

In addition to that, the plant becomes almost naturally less competitive in terms of the price it can produce its products for, because with the foundry in St Catharines producing products for St Catharines' operation, we had, first of all, a very efficient plant there and, second, a good price. If those products that were produced in the foundry, those moulds, have to be brought in from elsewhere, first of all, we cannot guarantee they will be as high a quality and, second, we cannot guarantee that the price will be as high. So we recognize the full ramifications of this when we examine the statements that are made by various people.

I had an opportunity to have Ron Davis, who is the president of Local 199 of the CAW in St Catharines, on my cable television show. Christel Haeck, who represents the riding of St Catharines-Brock, had the vice-president, Gabe MacNally, on her program. Both of these individuals had a chance to explain to the people who watch cable television in the St Catharines area and the area that immediately surrounds it the ramifications for the plant.

One of the things that will be difficult and a challenge for everybody is to maintain the interest and maintain the quality of product when people know their jobs are being lost. There's a bumping system, of course, that relates to seniority in our area, and it means that people will be taken from one job and placed in another job. So we have a major problem existing in the automotive industry.

I have, upon the announcement being made and previous to that, indicated what I think may be helpful from the point of view of the Ontario government in terms of its possibility in dealing with this issue. I think the Ontario government has a chance to be a positive factor rather than a negative factor in the decision-making process of General Motors. I wrote several letters to various ministers to request their assistance—the Premier himself, the Treasurer, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, the ministers of Labour, Community and Social Services, Colleges and Universities and Skills Development, the Chairman of Management Board, the Minister of the Environment even and the Minister of Energy—and suggesting what they could do to help the Niagara Peninsula in terms of job creation in that area with this particular news.

I think what has to be done in terms of provincial responsibility is that we must remove those impediments to investment in Ontario or those impediments to car purchases in Ontario. The first thing that has to be removed is

what I refer to as the tax on auto workers or the so-called gas guzzler tax, a tax which has caused great anxiety among those in the business. We've had letters from General Motors and others who have expressed concern about this tax. It has been portrayed, I think wrongly, as an environmental tax, because essentially it's a tax grab. It's an opportunity for the provincial government to get revenues. I wish they would not disguise it as something other than that.

Certainly over the years there have been other governments, at both the provincial and the federal level, that have followed the same tack, but I think the concern about this particular tax is magnified by the circumstances facing Ontario. Here we are in the midst of the deepest recession since the 1930s, here we are at a time when the automotive industry is facing unprecedented competition, and the provincial government is expanding and increasing the tax on automobiles sold in this province.

Auto parts manufacturers are every bit as concerned as assemblers, because in the St Catharines operation, for instance, and in other operations, we produce parts for plants other than those in Ontario. All of us are affected by vehicles which are sold in by General Motors and by others, so it is understandable there are those concerns.

I have in the past quoted statements in the House from representatives of Local 199 of the Canadian Auto Workers in St Catharines. They have been united in their stand against this particular tax, which they feel is detrimental to the automotive industry. So we have industry complaining about it, we have those who represent the workers in that industry complaining about it, and I think there is a better way the government can deal with it.

There is an ominous cloud on the horizon, and that is the NDP Fair Tax Commission. There has been a report from the NDP tax commission that this tax should be expanded and increased even more than was contemplated in the last budget by the provincial Treasurer.

I believe the most effective and immediate way to improve air quality in this province and fuel efficiency in the automotive business is to encourage Ontario residents to replace their older, fuel-inefficient vehicles with new vehicles that are much more fuel-efficient and have better pollution control equipment on them. If you wanted to make a dramatic step in favour of the environment, that's what you would do. Second, you would also have the effect of stimulating the automotive industry in Ontario and helping us economically.

I notice that a foreign producer of a vehicle in Canada put out an advertisement in the St Catharines Standard that said: "If I buy this vehicle, Elvis will pop by for lunch," or, second, "If I buy this vehicle, the sun will rise in the west," or, third, "If I buy this vehicle, the government will give me money." It does in fact say the Ontario government will give you a \$100 credit for buying this foreign vehicle. That is just one of the ramifications of this tax, and that is why I hope the Treasurer will remove the tax on auto workers and replace it with financial incentives which will encourage people in Ontario to purchase new cars.

The second thing I think can be done is that they can remove the 8% provincial sales tax from automobiles in

Ontario for at least a temporary period of time to stimulate the economy. The Treasurer will say he can't remove it for ever because it would cost the Treasury too much, but he can remove it for six months, nine months or a year to really stimulate auto sales and get things moving in the province once again.

A third thing we can do in this province is try to keep our electric power rates competitive with other jurisdictions'. There are those in the industry who have suggested that we will have no foundries, no electroplating operations and no forge shops left in the province by the end of this century—and that is only eight years—if our rates continue to increase the way they are.

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Some of those rate increases are unavoidable. If it's a reflection of the costs of producing electrical power, that's the way it is, but when the government places new social costs on the electric power rate, then we see it rising more than it should and it makes us uncompetitive. So that's a third way which I believe the government of Ontario can be helpful in terms of the future of General Motors in Ontario.

I think we can undertake a program to encourage people to buy Canadian-made products. I have all my life, since I was a young person, purchased General Motors cars. I'm not saying everybody else has to do so; that's their own business. But I remember the slogan that was on bumper stickers on many cars and said something along the lines of, "Buy the car your neighbours helped to build." I've always felt as a member of my community that I had an obligation to do that, but I don't impose that on anyone else. I think it's useful. Just as with food products we encourage people to give fair consideration to the products we produce, we could do the same in terms of automobile sales.

There are many items I could talk about that affect my city of St Catharines and affect the province of Ontario. We are limited in this Legislature because many have to have the opportunity to speak on the number of items that we can raise.

I can say that the automotive industry is exceedingly important to my community and exceedingly important to the Niagara region and very important to the province and to the country. If we look at the ramifications of the dismantling of the automotive industry or a diminishing of the automotive industry, we will see that it affects members from virtually all of Ontario, whether it's in northern Ontario where there are extraction industries and metal-processing industries or whether it is Hamilton or Sault Ste Marie where there are steel industries or plastics industries or any of the products that go into a car.

So I urge this government to do everything within its field of responsibility to make Ontario a good place to invest, to make General Motors and other companies feel welcome and indeed to encourage General Motors to reverse its decision to close its foundry in St Catharines and discontinue the one line of the engine plant to which I have made reference.

If we do not do that, there will be many disappointed people and many dismayed people in this province. It's

going to take a team effort in our community, and we have it. The members of the Legislature and the federal Parliament are united in their commitment, the members of the local level of government are concerned and wanting to do something about the situation, and representatives of labour and business are determined to fight back to retain the automotive industry in our community and our province.

I welcome the opportunity to talk about this issue. I wish I could go on to a number of other issues I have dealt with over the period in this House, but in fairness to others, I want to be able to give them an opportunity to contribute their ideas and suggestions as well.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** Very briefly, I want to congratulate the member, because I think that's one of the more thoughtful speeches we've heard in this House dealing with issues of direct concern. If you think back, earlier in the speech he talked about some of the people he's coached and taught and worked with in the community and how they're attempting to start their own families and enjoy their own lives and the real difficulty they're experiencing.

I thought the member had really struck a chord, because perhaps too often we simply get up and talk in partisan tones in this place, I guess at times understandably, without recognizing that we should be talking more in people tones. I thought he was very thoughtful in talking about the hardship the people in his community have been facing as a result of the cutbacks and the job losses.

I also thought he gave some very good, clear-cut examples. In fact, earlier in the House, the Minister of Transportation, in referring to one of the other speakers, shouted out, "Give examples." Well, I think you have now heard some examples from the member for St Catharines, examples that this government should study and could study in a non-partisan way. If they really did feel they had some merit, they could perhaps look at them.

I think he highlighted the real concern we all have as legislators, and perhaps it's because at times we see a less than adequate response from the government side or we see a throne speech that talks in platitudes and wonderful generalities without getting down to the kind of detail this member has put forward, without talking in terms of the impact on people. Perhaps that anger that rises up in all of us leads to the partisan debate we hear in this House, but I think this member has risen above that and I congratulate him.

**Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings):** I listened very carefully to the deliberations of the member for St Catharines, and I've got to say it was interesting for him to speak about the costs of hydro and how that will impact on industry in his community. I've got to say too that in my community there is a plant, a Goodyear tire plant, that has brought this concern to my attention. It is certainly something of an issue that will cause considerable concern, knowing that in order to be competitive, inexpensive energy is certainly important.

I would like to ask the member for St Catharines what he proposes the Ontario government do to reduce the cost of hydro to industry in Ontario. I ask him very directly:



Does the government subsidize it? I think it's a difficult decision this government has to grapple with. For years we've declared that Ontario hydro was at cost, when in fact that was not at all true. What happened was that it had been subsidized in many ways over the years. I think that as a result of this, we now find it's no longer viable to subsidize Ontario Hydro, yet we find ourselves facing markedly increased costs for Ontario Hydro as we remove those subsidies and bring the real cost for Ontario Hydro forward to the public. I think that is something that has to be recognized.

**Mr Bradley:** First of all, I appreciate the remarks of a complimentary nature from the member for Mississauga West. Certainly he and I have agreed on many occasions on the need to stimulate the economy in the province by making Ontario a good place to invest.

The last intervention, by my friend from the New Democratic Party, was one which I think is a significant question, and that is the issue of the pricing of electric power in Ontario. One of the initiatives taking place with the present government and the previous government is the initiative to deal with conservation in the province. That is an enviable goal and I think that is something that should be pursued. I have said quite publicly on a number of occasions that I am pleased to see that the present government has carried on the last government's initiative and has built upon and expanded the last government's initiative in terms of energy conservation.

The point I would make in terms of limiting electrical power costs is to not place social costs on them. If a government wishes to bail out a community—and there are quite obviously a lot of people who would want to see that happen, particularly when their community is directly affected, communities such as Kapuskasing and Elliot Lake—a government does have the opportunity through its fiscal policies to do so, up front and aboveboard. I think that's how government should deal with that issue, and not have that reflected in an electric power rate. My concern is that in terms of attracting industry and keeping industry, they're looking at two things in that field. One is an assured supply well into the future when the economy rebounds—I hope it does and I'm confident it will in the future—and second, a price which reflects the costs of producing the power and not some social costs that are placed on top.

Those would be the recommendations I would make, and I know it's going to be difficult to implement.

1650

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** I'm very pleased to rise this afternoon and speak to the issue of the government's throne speech which was delivered in this chamber on April 6. I think the throne speech is an opportunity every time the session resumes for the government—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Order, please. I am just told by the Clerk that it appears you have already participated in the throne speech debate. Could we check the record, please? You're only allowed once.

The honourable member may continue.

**Mr Arnott:** I was almost pre-empted there, Mr Speaker, but I appreciate your indulgence.

Looking through this throne speech I think may be a good way to start. I want to make some brief general comments at the start and talk about how the throne speech affects my riding and the response I have received from my constituents with respect to it, and then get into some of the areas I'm responsible for on behalf of my caucus, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, and talk about where this throne speech affects that responsibility.

The throne speech continued very much what the government has been doing since day one, I think. It wasn't really a departure in any way from the path that was started on in October 1990 with the first throne speech. I think that's quite obvious.

But I sense out in my community and abroad, across the country, I think, a real cynicism about the political process, about politicians, about parties, about the political institutions. I think the government has to be cognizant of that problem every single day and hopefully make efforts to try and work against that to show that there is no reason to be sceptical and cynical, that we are in fact here trying to do our best on behalf of our constituents and so forth. I think that's essential. It's a prerequisite for us solving any of the problems that exist outside this building. We've got to have credibility. We've got to have the respect of the people.

This throne speech would've been a good opportunity for the government to work towards showing the people the government is here to help them and look after them and do the very best job it can. I know in the past the leader of the government, the Premier, while he was opposition leader, many, many times criticized throne speeches for being too vague, too vacuous, and of course we have had a tradition of rather vague throne speeches. He could've made a more specific throne speech and I think he should've, but if we go through some of the highlights of the throne speech as I see them, I think in some ways it was a good presentation of the government's views.

Certainly I disagree with many of the views they hold, but if you get into the throne speech, we've heard many times from the government that it's not going to point fingers any more. You only have to go to page 3 to find that all the problems in Canada and in Ontario are as a result of the federal government. Here you see finger-pointing, right off the bat essentially. There is very little capacity on behalf of the government to recognize that it has responsibility, that it is in government, that there are certain things it can do, that it has the power to do, within its own level of jurisdiction. We see complaints and blame being assessed at the federal government once again. That is not a productive approach, as far as I'm concerned, and it concerns me greatly.

Later on there is talk about investment in business. It talks about government investing in business, and there are a few examples of, I think, a dozen companies that are actually being successful in this difficult economy. I wonder, if they could only find 12. I don't know who they put in and who they left out, but it concerns me, and it is very unusual, that 12 companies would be pointed out as being success stories, because the obvious conclusion a person might draw is, are there only 12 companies that are being



successful in this current economic climate and under this government? I think that's a conclusion I certainly drew.

We get on later in the throne speech to something I thought was quite positive. I'm pleased that the government mentioned Ontario's agricultural community, because I think it's been an issue many in this House have continued to advocate to try and get agriculture on the government's agenda. We've been continuing to press for that and I'm pleased to see that there is mention in the throne speech of agricultural issues.

Unfortunately there wasn't a new program. There was a restatement of a program that the Minister of Agriculture and Food announced, I think, two or three weeks ago, the commodity loan guarantee program, which you, Mr Speaker, in your capacity as our party's Agriculture and Food critic, have had some involvement in.

Later on we get into investing in infrastructure. We see a restatement of the government's suggestion that there should be a national infrastructure program, if only the feds would cough up half the money. We still haven't seen a knowledge on behalf of the government that the federal government has been running successive deficits in excess of \$30 billion for about the last seven or eight years and that the federal government is broke. Really, they don't have that much more capacity to borrow. Obviously the government hasn't learned that lesson because it's taking us down that very road.

They talk about the Ontario investment fund. I think that when you look at their ideas with respect to the Ontario investment fund, where they're saying is, "We'll take money, on a voluntary basis, from public sector pension funds and we'll invest that into sinkholes, into businesses and so forth that can't get money anywhere else because they're bad risks, because they're bankrupt, not a good investment, or a bad risk, because the banks won't touch them and venture capitalists won't touch them." No one will touch them, but the government, through voluntary pension funds, will.

Most of the people I know who count on their pensions for their retirement years hope very much that those moneys will be there. They hope those moneys will be invested very conservatively so that they have assurance that money will be there when they need it. If the government is going to voluntarily take that money—I say "voluntarily" with a bit of facetiousness because, once the government gets set up with this system, I fear very much that the voluntary aspect of the program will be gone very quickly, because of the desire of this government to get its hands on whatever money it can.

Later on we hear that municipalities will be given increased flexibility to borrow and invest. There we see, once again, a government that's essentially fiscally bankrupt and now wants the municipal level of government to join it. I have very serious concerns about that. For many years the municipal level of government has been the most fiscally sound administrator of the public purse. If we're encouraging municipalities and school boards to go into debt to pay for what we, in our voracious appetite for programs, want today by bankrupting tomorrow, then I have very serious concerns about that.

The government talks about investing in the environment and a lot of very nice things.

We get on to streamlining regulations. I commend the government in its efforts to try and streamline the regulations we presently have, which projects have to undergo. Frankly I don't see that their idea of increasing the resources of the Ontario Municipal Board is likely the best way to do it, though. I think they should look at all the regulations and streamline whatever they can, but I don't think increasing the bureaucracy is the best way to go about it.

There's one other point I want to make with respect to this. I was pleased that the city of Guelph and its hospital were mentioned, very pleased that the government has indicated it approves of the health care model that has been developed in Guelph. Unfortunately, once again there was no commitment that the money will be forthcoming, but I certainly urge the government to make an announcement with respect to solid money going to that hospital as soon as possible. I was pleased with that.

When we talk about the most important thing this government could have done with this throne speech, as I said earlier, it could have addressed the problem of public cynicism. I don't think this does that. But the second thing they should have done with this throne speech was make an effort to restore confidence in our economy, consumer confidence as well as workers' confidence that they are going to have a job tomorrow. Right now many people, consumers and workers, are very concerned that their jobs may not be there next week, so they don't spend on anything but absolute essentials for their household. Our economy is suffering greatly as a result of that.

1700

This government could've come forward with a throne speech that would signal confidence, but it hasn't done that. They've continued along the road they set for us in the throne speech of October 1990. In many ways they've admitted that the private sector is not going to be assisted in any way by this government. That signal is going to be very damaging for the economy over time.

When I look at this throne speech and how it affects my constituents, and I listen to the response I have received from my constituents with respect to this throne speech, I believe my constituents by and large—the ones I have spoken to certainly—are very disappointed.

Job creation is the most important issue today in Ontario. This government should be putting forward policies that will create jobs. Most of us in this House agree on that. Where we diverge in our opinion is how that can best be brought about. The government talks about its infrastructure program and sees that as a good way of creating jobs. I think they'd like to expand the civil service. I am sure they would, and they could hire more people in that way, but those policies will not lead to long-term job creation.

We need to recognize that certain policies, such as the ones advocated by our PC caucus, would in fact create private sector jobs over the long term. The people in my riding have a very serious concern about the lack in this throne speech of job creation initiatives that will work.



Health care is a very important issue in my riding, as I talked about the Guelph General Hospital issue. Many people in my riding, especially the seniors, are very concerned that the health care they're accustomed to and that has been available to them in the past when they needed it may not be there. They are very seriously worried about the lack of resources this government is putting towards the health care system.

During question period and so forth in the House, we've talked about the random service cuts, and it appears the government has taken quite a hard line with respect to its transfers to hospitals. It has left the difficult job of trying to ascertain which programs are going to be cut—making the hospitals actually prioritize their services. What's happening is that some important services are being cut, so I think we have to recognize that fact. I think we've got to be very seriously worried about the people out there who rely on the health care system and who genuinely fear it may not be there when they need it.

Policing is a very important issue in my riding. Unfortunately, this government doesn't appear to sense the importance of that issue. We have a difficult economy. Crime is up, but resources going to the police and the OPP are down. They're not keeping pace. We have excellent OPP officers in my riding, but unfortunately the government doesn't see fit to give us enough of them. The OPP officers are overworked, they feel under considerable stress and the government is going to have to address that issue very soon or we're going to have even worse problems, as far as I am concerned.

The education issue is very important in my riding. I am pleased the Minister of Education is here this afternoon, because the whole issue of mandating enforced programs on school boards is very important in my riding. We have a minister insisting that we have junior kindergarten by 1994, and there's a very serious concern about junior kindergarten. There is a concern that we can't afford it and we don't need it.

I would call upon the minister to be as flexible as he possibly can with respect to the alternatives the school board in my area is bringing forward in a sincere effort to work with him, but we can't afford junior kindergarten and I hope the minister's aware of that. As well, I still think it's a very questionable basis upon which the government thinks it would be an improvement in our system.

The government's industrial strategy doesn't get much discussion in the throne speech, but there's a great deal on it and I would like to speak to it for a few minutes.

The minister announced in a cursory way his industrial strategy and I gather there's more to come. I certainly hope there's more to come, because in the announcement by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology on the industrial strategy—rather vague, just like the throne speech in many ways—he goes through six or seven key points he believes deserve encouragement and special attention.

He talks about innovation. I certainly agree that we need to encourage our industry to undergo constant innovation so that we strive for excellence and are able to compete in global markets. There seems to be an understanding, which I think the government's come a consider-

able distance in understanding, that we have to compete in the global marketplace. I think they understand that, but they haven't made the next step, which is how we solve some of the structural problems in our economy so we can compete in the global marketplace. When they talk about encouraging innovation, I see that as a positive point.

They talk about encouraging skills, but they don't talk about it in this strategy but the OTAB, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board issue. We see how they intend to encourage skills: Our party has a great number of concerns about that particular issue, because what they want to do is give more power to the trade unions once again. Labour forces people who don't want to be members of unions, or workplaces that aren't unionized, for whatever reason—I fear they're going to be left out in the cold, and I think that's the opinion they're bringing forward.

Technological capability is certainly very important, as the minister has indicated. We have to expand our technological capability. He talks about the centres of excellence program, but doesn't mention that it was actually the Liberal government that brought that forward.

He talks about the home-based advantage and home-based companies. A lot of this is platitudes and it's difficult to speak against it. But I get to point 5 in the minister's industrial strategy: encouraging clusters. "Clusters are groups of companies that are linked through shared customers, suppliers, workforce, skills or common technology. They are often located in the same geographic area." So what he's saying is, "Industry that's located in a geographical cluster or immediately adjacent to each other is the sort of thing we're going to encourage."

I have great reservations about that because I'm a firm advocate of rural industrial growth, and I fear this means—I hope I'm wrong—the government is taking the view that most of the new industrial growth should be encouraged and should take place in the greater Toronto area. We're looking at a policy that encourages growth in only one area of the province, an area that is already taxed to the hilt with respect to the municipal services that are available. We've got a terrible traffic congestion problem in the city. We can't service what we've got. I'm a firm believer in encouraging growth outside the city, so as I say, I have very serious concerns about that announcement by the government.

In the industrial strategy, the government has come some way. It recognizes some of the problems we have with respect to being able to compete, but it has not yet offered any solutions, and I would encourage it to look to our party for those solutions.

Many people wonder what we do as members when the House is not sitting. One of the things I tried to undertake in my riding over the holiday was a survey of small businesses. I went around on the main streets of towns like Fergus, Erin, Arthur and Mount Forest and talked to small business people face to face. In many ways, I learned a lot. I learned their concerns. We have to be careful that we don't just look at our mail and assume that's the only thing that's happening out there.

For that reason I undertook this survey. I received probably about 250 responses and I'd like to share with the

House some of the responses from these small business people in my riding, the entrepreneurs who create jobs, who are our only hope if we're going to get out of this recession. I would like to share with the House what they think of this government.

One comment: "The government cannot keep raising taxes and the minimum wage to pay for their mistakes. As a small business, like many others I cut back on the hours of employees to compensate." That's their response.

"The government is putting us all out of business."

"The NDP were elected for the people, not for the unions."

Another one: "Fixed costs are increasing, ie, hydro, insurance, new taxes, reducing profit to the point of its not being worth the hours and the time. Small business will be eliminated."

"We are overgoverned and overtaxed. As owners, we deeply resent being forced to work 16-hour days, six to seven days a week, to pay for a raised minimum wage and other labour laws. We resent not benefiting from those programs which we are forced to pay for. We are mad as hell and won't take it much longer."

I could go on and on. I've got hundreds of these and I hope to continue to share these views of the small business people, the people who are creating jobs in my riding, or would like to if they could see an expression of confidence from this government. As I say, I would like to share these with the House on a more or less ongoing basis from time to time.

1710

I've made a number of suggestions to the government to try to encourage job creation in my riding and in rural Ontario generally. I put them forward from time to time, whenever I can think of something that the government is not doing. What I've called for many times over the past little while—and I will restate this, because I think the government has taken a couple of steps on some of them and there's more it could do on others—is greater assistance to farmers, because in a rural riding a prosperous farmer will spend his or her money in town. I'm sure the parliamentary assistant over there would agree with me that trying to encourage the farmers to be more prosperous has considerable economic benefits and spinoffs in the small towns in our province.

I've called upon the government to form an all-party committee on small business to review all the regulations and legislation which affect small business. I did this some time ago. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology responded by forming a small-business committee exclusively composed of NDP members. I had hoped for an all-party committee, because the NDP members they have selected perhaps have a different view and perhaps do not have the experience. If members from all sides of the House were included, I think that would be a much better approach to the problem. I hope the government will indeed take me up on that.

I called upon the Premier to expand his Premier's Council on Economic Renewal by assigning within it a task force on rural industrial development. In rural Ontario we can offer a great deal to prospective industries wishing

to locate somewhere. We have a very reliable labour force. We have land that's generally available at a less expensive rate than what might be found in the city and we have infrastructure and services in many instances that are just waiting to go. I've actually received a response from the Premier that he is considering it, and I hope he will follow through on that.

I've called for improvements to Highway 6. I hope the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Transportation is listening and that he will indeed use his influence to get this government to put improvements to Highway 6, which bisects my riding north-south and is our most important corridor to the 401. It is an important issue with respect to economic development. I hope the government will respond to putting in those passing lanes that we need so badly.

Fifth, and many members of the opposition have called upon the government to do this and I have been pleased to be one of them, I call upon the government to shelve its labour law reform proposal. This is easily the most damaging issue that has been raised by this government and it is hurting our economy today. The government members come back with all sorts of arguments. They say a number of different things to try to refute what the opposition has been saying and what the business community and many workers say who are concerned about their jobs.

The reality is, and I think we all know this, that there is a perception that this government is anti-business. You can deny that you're anti-business and that's fine, but the reality is that the perception is the opposite. If you want to be perceived as not being anti-business, you have to take steps to show that you're not. You haven't done that as of yet. We're still waiting for it and I hope we will see it.

When we get into the issue of tourism and recreation, which I am pleased to look after on behalf of my party, we've seen very difficult times for our tourism industry. We've seen a government that hasn't really acknowledged or addressed any of the problems that have been faced by the industry. Many of them are a direct result of government action, high taxes, and we see this really having a negative impact on our tourism sector.

Many small businesses are experiencing very difficult times economically, but I think our tourism sector is probably getting the worst of it. They're a very important sector of our economy and we often forget that. There's a Minister of Tourism and Recreation, but I don't sense that he's getting through to his cabinet colleagues. I don't sense that his cabinet colleagues are listening to him, and that concerns me.

We must keep in mind the urgent importance the tourism sector looks after for our economy. If we look at the fact that the tourism sector is one of the largest generators of personal income in Canada, which puts forward \$2.1 billion of revenues in the form of taxes to the provincial government, \$4.1 billion to the federal government and \$600 million to municipal governments in 1990, those facts and figures indicate that this sector of our economy is very important. We'd better not overlook it.

Another interesting fact I wasn't aware of until recently is that tourism is the largest industry in the service sector, now accounting for about 72% of all new jobs in Ontario.



Of course many times the government members, the cabinet and the Premier want to encourage a certain type of job. They talk about the service jobs not being as good. That concerns me because service jobs are very important. I think we don't want to degrade those jobs; we want the very best people possible in those jobs.

I think the government's rhetoric at times, when it talks about how certain jobs are good and certain jobs are bad, basically is saying that certain jobs are not as important. They're degrading those jobs. If the government is doing that, we're guaranteeing mediocrity in those jobs because people won't want to go into them. I think that's something the government has to be very cautious about doing. I'd like to see that happening very soon.

There have been a number of suggestions put forward to the government with respect to the tourism industry. For well over a year the Tourism Ontario group, which is probably the most important interest group dealing with tourism, has been working with the Ministry of Treasury and Economics to try to find solutions to some of the taxes it feels are particularly onerous upon it.

They have called for the elimination of the commercial concentration tax on hotels and restaurants located in large commercial establishments. They have talked about eliminating the gallonage tax on beverage alcohol, which they see as a severe impediment to a prosperous and flourishing tourism sector. They've requested the reduction of the liquor tax in licensed establishments from 10% to 8% and the maintenance of the accommodation tax at 5% for 1992. They've asked you not to increase it in the coming budget. They've asked for a couple of other things.

In return they've offered a few concessions. They've offered a revenue-neutral package to the government for its consideration in the hope that the government will consider it and will respond in changing some of these particularly unfair taxes that are hurting the tourism industry.

I've spoken with the Minister of Tourism and Recreation on this. I hope the Treasurer is listening to him because I know he's putting forward that view. I hope that in the government's desire and voracious appetite to consume every last dollar in this economy it will look at this as a revenue-neutral proposal that has been sincerely put forward for consideration and it will adopt many of the measures included in it.

When we talk about the budget coming up and the pre-budget consultations that have been ongoing for some time, something the government has to know and be cognizant of is the general concern that we must control government spending. I don't see a signal from the government at this time, and haven't yet, that it understands that problem of government spending and what it is doing to our economy, but I hope we see something in the budget that does recognize that fact.

I hope taxes are kept as low as possible in the budget. I hope there are no tax increases. I hope there are tax reductions. I ask the government to keep that in mind. We don't need to see an increase in the retail sales tax, for example. It's high enough and it's difficult enough for people to pay it.

The employer health tax is a particularly thorny issue for business. They feel, and I agree with them, that it's

unfair for small business to have to be footing this big share of the bill. They have to shoulder a very disproportionate share of the employer health tax. Businesses under a \$400,000 or \$500,000 payroll are the businesses we've got to have. If we've got a tax on jobs, which is what the employer health tax is, which is what the government of David Peterson brought in as a means of kicking our small business people, I would say, we've got to take a look at giving an exemption for many of our small businesses with respect to the employer health tax.

Harmonization of the GST and the PST: I know this government doesn't like to talk about it, but right now we've got two civil services, one at the federal level and one at the provincial level, essentially doing the same thing. It's a clear case of a duplication of government service looked after by two levels of government, and we're paying for it twice. That doesn't concern the government, obviously. They want to continue doing that. I feel that's a clear case of duplication of service that the government should look at. From our perspective, we're trying to encourage the government to look at harmonizing the two taxes. I think that would be an important step for the government to take.

1720

It would simplify it for many small business people and for tourists who come in. Tourists are able to apply for a rebate of provincial sales tax and GST, which is important and should be maintained, and I hope the government doesn't take that away. But it's difficult for a tourist to understand, especially an American tourist. They have state consumption taxes, but they certainly don't have a federal consumption tax. If we could simplify it for tourists and encourage them to come, if they could leave after their stay here in Ontario in a positive way, not having to fill out two bloody forms to send back to get a rebate, if we could keep it as simple as possible, I think we would encourage tourism in this province.

There are a number of reasons why the government should consider harmonizing the GST and the PST, and I would encourage it to do that. I know it's difficult for them politically because they want to put out the impression that the federal government is the whole problem and that the GST is the big evil. But the reality is that if they won't recognize it, they're not looking at the problem in a sensible way. The reality is that the GST is here, and if Audrey McLaughlin is elected Prime Minister in a couple of years, she will not remove the GST. I know you people know that.

We can also talk about the better roads issue. We need good roads in Ontario. I know from my former work as the critic for Transportation for our caucus that our roads are in a serious state of disrepair. Hopefully the government will look at that problem, and hopefully it will start devoting more and more resources to our roads, because that's an important economic development issue. We've got to have good roads and a good infrastructure. I hope they'll certainly also look at it in terms of the attraction for tourism that a good road system will give us.

I've gone on long enough, longer than I intended, and I intend to sit down now. I thank you for your indulgence,



and I am pleased I was able to speak this afternoon in spite of the fact that apparently there was some feeling I had already spoken before on this issue.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Before we get to questions and/or comments, I was advised by the table officer that the honourable member for Wellington was very much in order, that he had not participated previously in the debate. We appreciate his participation and the table graciously apologizes.

Questions and/or comments, the honourable member for Essex-Kent.

**Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent):** Your apologies are accepted, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Mahoney:** Have you spoken yet?

**Mr Hayes:** Two times.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** We are in the two-minute questions and/or comments.

**Mr Hayes:** I want to just refer to page 3, which the member for Wellington has spoken about. I will read the section he is talking about here: "Ontario lost more than an argument in the free trade deal. Implemented without adjustment measures, free trade has devastated Ontario's manufacturing base, costing tens of thousands of jobs in Ontario communities. Combined with the goods and services tax, persistently high real interest rates and an overvalued dollar, the new trading arrangements between Canada and the United States have not worked for Ontario."

This is what's in there. The member for Wellington and many members over there keep saying we should not be pointing the finger. I don't call setting the facts out to the people in this province pointing the finger. If people think high interest rates, free trade, the inflated Canadian dollar and the GST have helped Ontario, they better wake up.

I was really pleased to hear the member for Wellington telling this government that it should actually restore confidence in this economy and encourage the people and encourage businesses. I just have something very brief to say there. I hope he can convince some of his own members on that side of the House to quit their scaremongering and start doing the same thing they are asking us to do, and that is to help encourage development in Ontario.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** To the member who just spoke, what he should realize is that whether the dollar is inflated or not, not enough of the people in this province are able to have the dollar they need to put food on the table and to take care of their families, and that is the real problem.

With regard to the member's speech, I thought it was very well done and well delivered and had some very good points in it. However, of course you are going to appreciate I differ with some of the comments. He made reference to the employer health tax. Let me tell you as the small business critic and indeed the former small business advocate, I understand the impact the employer health tax has had on small business. I don't disagree with the sentiment that it has created a certain burden. But what we should talk about is the other side of that coin; that is, the fact that OHIP premiums were abolished for all Ontarians.

I believe we need to go a step further. I would refer all members to the recent newspaper coverage of the invoice that was sent out by Sunnybrook Medical Centre wherein it detailed to the patient the exact amount of the care he had consumed. I thought it was an extremely responsible act on the part of that hospital to do that and to try to educate the people that along with abolishing OHIP premiums comes a responsibility we all have to recognize, that we have to pay the bill. The employer health tax indeed pays that bill and what we need to do is further all of our education as to how much health care we're consuming.

The same comment could be made for those, particularly the Tories, who criticize the commercial concentration tax. I wonder if they would like us to reduce the GO train service, to reduce the amount of money announced in the program by our government, which this government has carried on with, to improve transportation. You have to pay the bills.

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** It's a pleasure for me to congratulate the member for Wellington on his very well prepared and delivered speech relative to the throne speech. I must say that I didn't find that his comments—

Interjections.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Would the honourable member please take his own seat.

**Mr Jordan:** I'm sorry, Mr Speaker.

I found the member for Wellington not particularly critical of the throne speech, but he did a very good job in pointing out the areas of that speech he was disappointed in relative to his own riding. I think he showed a good knowledge of his own riding. His riding has many parallels with my riding, being partly rural, small-town and urban. During the break our member took time to go and visit small business and talk to them on a one-to-one basis and he came back and was able to report to the Legislature not only his own personal disappointment in the throne speech but the disappointment of the people in his riding because of the fact that farm, small business and tourism were not mentioned.

New labour laws were stressed in the throne speech. Mr Speaker, those are the laws that are going to kill tourism not only in the member's riding but in my riding of Lanark-Renfrew. I can assure you that if the legislation goes ahead as I perceive it to be planned, then tourism in Lanark-Renfrew, and I'm sure in the member's riding, will be bankrupt. It's as simple as that. And so will many small businesses.

**Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls):** Certainly the member for Wellington brought forward a lot of very interesting comments. I'd like to touch on a couple of them. First of all, he mentioned the federal government and the position it is in with its debt load of 30 cents on each dollar and therefore not being able to help the country out when it needs it most. Certainly our government does not want to be in that kind of position and therefore we have to control the deficit.

He also mentioned the problem with the retail sales tax. That, I want to point out, is because the federal level



has moved in and cornered that market by imposing the GST and there is the problem with consumers not having confidence to go out and buy because of these two taxes.

The most important thing I believe you touched on was restoring confidence. That is so important. You mentioned that the private sector was not helped by the throne speech. This is where I would differ from you. I'd like to draw your attention to a speech that was made at the Empire Club by a person named Bill L'Heureux, who is certainly a representative of a very large business. He said a couple of things, that the NDP is trying hard to work with business—it goes on from there, several other things.

1730

I'd like to conclude by saying that I believe this government is well placed in this very difficult climate to work with all sectors in the community to turn this difficult corner. It's not going to be done overnight. It's going to take years to bring together business and labour to look to the future.

I'm on that small business committee of the government. We've been listening to concerns of business, especially small business. Yes, I meet with unions in my riding, like last weekend, with the United Food and Commercial Workers, but I also meet with the economic development agency. We have to bring everyone together.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** This completes questions and/or comments. The honourable member for Wellington has two minutes in reply.

**Mr Arnott:** I hope I don't have to take the full two minutes, but I would like to respond to the suggestions that have been made. I thank all members for their suggestions. The member for Essex-Kent basically talked about the issue of fearmongering. It's as if he believes the work the collective opposition is trying to do to call this government to account is in fact fearmongering. I dispute that. I find more concern and more fear outside this building than I've ever heard of in here. There's fear out there.

Also, I thank the member for Niagara Falls for her comments, but the reality is, as I said before, that there is a severe crisis of confidence in this government—

Interjection.

**Mr Arnott:** Yes, there is, and there is a belief that this government is anti-business. You're going to have to come a long way. You have one business person on your side, as you've indicated, but the preponderance of opinion in the business community is that this government is anti-business. The best way you could today dispel that impression—it's nothing the opposition can do—is say today that the labour law reform is going to get further discussion through a tripartite commission. That's what's been asked; that's been requested. It's a very positive suggestion. Put it off for more discussion at the very least until the economy recovers a little. Let's give this some more time. If you'd do that, you would find that the business community would receive that as a positive expression of confidence.

I would like to thank briefly the member for Mississauga West for his comments, but I ask him if he believes the small business sector in Ontario is more competitive as a result of the employer health tax and the com-

mercial concentration tax, or if it's less competitive as a result of those taxes. I think that's the litmus test we have to apply to the new legislation coming forward from this government. I'll speak to him afterwards about it.

I'd like to thank the member for Lanark-Renfrew for his kind comments, and I would ask him to stay in his chair in the future.

**Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough):** I appreciate this opportunity to contribute to the debate on the throne speech. Economies are in trouble all over the world. Unemployment is increasingly the result of greater productivity. Modern technology means we can produce more with fewer workers, but we haven't found a way to distribute the wealth fairly or make sure our collective way of life is sustainable, given ever-increasing stresses on the environment.

This is indeed a time of painful restructuring, but one thing is sure: If all sections of society work together, we're much more likely to achieve a prosperous and fair economy. I'm trying to work with all groups in my riding, including large and small business. I'm sure most MPPs of whatever stripe are trying to do the same.

This government has been accused of being unfriendly to business. The 1992 throne speech, however, is geared to renewing Ontario's economy by helping business to function more efficiently and thus become more competitive in the global setting. The orchestrated campaign against suggested changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act could itself do more to bring about the dismal outcome it is predicting than anything that may be in the act. If some business people keep telling each other they'll have to move away, they might end up doing just that. But where in the world is the business paradise they're looking for? If they think positively and look at the situation as it really is, they will surely decide that Ontario is a good place to do business and that the changes taking place will make sure it stays that way.

I quote from Robert Sheppard writing in the *Globe and Mail*. His title is, "Business Should Come Out of Mourning." He says:

"For nearly 14 years, Quebec has been the only Canadian jurisdiction where replacement workers are outlawed—partly the result of a particularly violent strike at a sugar refinery. The improvement in labour relations has been notable—so much so, in fact, that it can probably be considered an inducement to investors.

"Labour Canada figures show that, in seven of the past 10 years, Quebec has lost far fewer working days to strikes than Ontario—half as many in an average year. Those years when the Quebec figures were higher, and they were much higher, coincided with big public service negotiations, not with problems in the private sector.

"Of course, Quebec business leaders did not embrace the no-scab rule; they fought it tooth and claw, and lost, but eventually came out of mourning. Their Ontario counterparts and the opposition should learn a valuable lesson from this. They should stop their irresponsible campaign of vilification."

David Crane in the *Toronto Star* cites Bill L'Heureux, whom the member for Niagara Falls just mentioned,



president and managing partner of Hees International Bancorp, who told a meeting of the Empire Club that he rejects the idea that the Bob Rae government is anti-business. On the contrary, he asserted, "The NDP is trying hard to work with business." According to L'Heureux: "The government is working with business to develop new export markets. It helped gain a major contract in Iran"—a power contract—"and insisted on a cash deal, showing what good business people they are. The government is supporting Ontario's centres of excellence and helping Ontario companies get back on their feet after the recession. Efforts like the industry adjustment program for troubled companies appear to have saved 12,000 jobs and created another 6,000," said L'Heureux.

Toronto lawyer John Campion, an Empire Club director, also said, "The Rae government has made some positive moves for business and deserves to be given some elbow room by the business community."

In my riding, my office and myself have worked with several businesses and helped them overcome difficulties. One businessman phoned me and said that government sponsorship of affordable housing had allowed him to survive as a maker of kitchen cabinets. Workers and business have the same overriding interest: to compete successfully so that there will be both jobs and profit in the future.

On a related issue, the comments from the leader of the third party about increased Ontario Hydro rates—and this has been taken up since in the debate—are particularly illogical. Rates must not go up, he says, but we must build more generating capacity to ensure our supplies. Business must have power at cost, he says, not realizing that that is precisely the point. If we build more generating stations, particularly nuclear ones, the cost of power goes up to pay for them. That is why we are trying to avoid building them. The nuclear power stations are turning out to be lemons anyhow, and we still haven't solved the problem of what to do with nuclear waste. Energy saving is much cheaper, as well as better for the environment, and if we did need more power, gas turbine generation could be brought on stream far more cheaply and quickly than could nuclear stations.

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When he says, "Power at cost," does the leader of the third party mean power at less than cost with the taxpayer subsidizing big industry? I'm afraid he might mean that. That seems to be a real possibility in the States, and in the past of course Ontario Hydro has quietly subsidized the uranium industry to a vast degree. Rates are going up to pay for Darlington, child of Conservative and Liberal governments, and for the maintenance that wasn't done and can now be put off no longer.

Industries that learn to use energy more wisely are more efficient, more up to date, cleaner and more profitable than those that want to go on in the old way of subsidized profligacy. They are the ones that will survive in the face of competition.

I also welcome the introduction of an environmental bill of rights. This is overdue. The idea that private individuals can only protest pollution or damaging development if it impinges directly on them and their personal property is

narrow and outdated. We all have a very personal interest in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the purity of our food and the pleasantness or otherwise of our surroundings. These are shared goods. We can't buy one little patch of clean outdoor air no matter how wealthy we are. People who don't understand the importance of these shared gifts of nature should maybe go and live on the moon.

The decrease in the ozone layer, global warming, acid rain and threats to the quality of our water are all at crisis point and need to be reversed immediately within this decade. The Brundtland report has told us this and leading scientists have reiterated it. These problems are not vague and generalized, but hit us all where we live.

The thinning of the ozone layer could lead to increased skin cancer, cataracts, which of course can lead to blindness, damage to the immune system so that we could almost have the symptoms of AIDS without having to have the virus, and environmental damage of all kinds, including decreased yield of crops.

Recent research on maple trees in my area has shown that they are not dying, as had been thought, as a result of acid rain—because the limestone area is naturally buffered against acid rain, which has also declined a little due to the recession; they are dying due to increased climatic insult. In other words, our climate has already become more erratic because of changes brought about by the continued spewing of greenhouse gases into the air. Our "shining waters" have also become unfit for swimming due to a host of insufficiently regulated activities resulting from increased population and use.

Of course every citizen must have a say in protecting the environment. Such a bill has been under consideration for 10 years, and whistle-blowing legislation, part of the proposed bill, is particularly desirable. There is a sad history of workers who reported bad environmental practices and lost their jobs as a result of their public-spiritedness. We urgently need to do something about that.

I would like now to draw attention to the proposal to encourage basement and other accessory apartments, including granny flats. We want to change the Planning Act so that municipalities cannot zone against extra apartments in family homes. This refers to self-contained units including all necessary services and not to people sharing a house in a more integrated way.

We need many new units, and many are being built, but there is a lot of empty space in existing homes. Some people oppose the opening up of this space because they feel it will lower the tone of their neighbourhood. This ignores all the illegal subletting that goes on at present. I believe there can be thousands of illegal apartments in one municipality.

Illegal apartments cannot be inspected and required to conform to standards. By legalizing them we open them to inspection and ensure that standards are maintained. The increased income will also help owner-occupiers maintain their property in a way which will be a credit to their neighbourhoods. Jobs will be created because of renovations and makeovers, and neighbourhoods will have more eyes on the street, which has been proven to contribute to public safety.



This initiative is in tune with planning and environmental objectives. Accommodation is provided with minimal environmental damage, existing services are used, urban density is increased and surrounding businesses benefit. Greater urban density also lends itself to mass transit systems, which we urgently need to encourage for environmental reasons.

As has already been mentioned in this debate, Toronto is high on the pollution list for North American cities. Ozone levels in particular are high, leading to excess respiratory problems. The automobile is the prime cause of this problem. If we can live a little closer together, people may not have to travel such long distances to work. They may even be able to walk or cycle, or if not, they'll be more likely to have access to frequent bus, train or subway services.

I also welcome the inclusion in this throne speech of pay equity and job equity. Pay equity means giving the same pay to women as a man would get for the same or similar work. I believe that's only fair. I wonder who doesn't believe that.

Job equity means hiring the best-qualified people for the job, whatever their sex and regardless of whether they're aboriginal, members of a visible minority or disabled. It does not mean a quota system that would unfairly disadvantage white males.

Some suggest that employers will get a second-rate workforce. This is emphatically not so. The highest possible standards will be achieved by drawing on the talents of the whole population. The designated groups will soon provide over 80% of new entrants to the workforce. We cannot restrict this proportion of our working population to job ghettos or limit their upward mobility without damaging our society as a whole. We need their talents.

Similarly, the proposed Ontario Training and Adjustment Board and its associated local boards will assist our economy by making sure that the supply of skills matches the need. All concerned stakeholders will be actively involved: business, labour, educators and trainers, and community and special-interest groups.

This is another example of the cooperation between business, workers and the rest of the community I mentioned before, which is what we need to get Ontario back on its feet. We have a bad habit of importing workers trained elsewhere. Now we're getting down to the nuts and bolts of satisfying our own training needs.

The throne speech is full of good things. It is particularly tragic that it is being slammed by some business people, because its main thrusts are very practical measures to get the economy moving again, in spite of everything the federal government has done to destroy our economy and our jobs. We have had too much negative criticism from business and from the opposition just because they don't like the label this government carries.

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If they don't like our plans, they should come up with concrete, positive suggestions for ways of doing the job better. The opposition has a bad habit of decrying spending cuts while at the same time slamming the government for the size of the provincial deficit. They should, in all honesty, try to be more positive. What would they spend?

Where would they cut? They can't have it all ways. If they try to do that, they are simply not credible.

Old style patriarchal labour relations, abuse of the environment, ongoing prejudices and an inadequate and fragmented training system will not put Ontario back on its feet. Are some business people willing to jeopardize all our futures so they can continue to be negative and critical in the face of common sense? I think better of them than that.

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** I listened with great intensity to the member for Peterborough and the thought that she gave to her comments on the throne speech.

I find it difficult to understand why the residents of my riding differ so much from the residents of her riding, in that in a recent endeavour to become acquainted with every resident of my riding, we knocked on doors. When we knocked on the doors of homes, the most evident criticism of the government was on the proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. When we knocked on the doors of businesses, it was the same criticism we heard. When we knocked on the doors of industries, we heard the same criticism, with great intensity. People were upset, they were grieved and they were very much opposed.

During the recent campaign, I had the opportunity to attend nine all-candidates meetings. The item that came up early in each meeting and was debated was the matter of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act. People were upset and very concerned and very much against it. My solution was that if indeed negotiation is the best solution and the best process for good labour relations in this province, why doesn't the government negotiate the changes?

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** I want to congratulate the member for Peterborough for her remarks on the throne speech and for outlining some of the very positive things that are in it. I think that's one of the key messages that have come out in this document. It's a very positive-oriented document. We've heard some members talk about how people have a lack of confidence, and there's no doubt that there's a lack of confidence out there or a degree of pessimism out there. It's an uncertainty about their future. I think if we're to be fair about it, it's not just directed at this government. I think it's a general feeling out there: uncertainty about the future of the country and uncertainty as a result of seeing their neighbours lose their jobs as a result of free trade or other actions that have been occurring.

As to the sense that labour relations is going to be the end of the province and kill off all industry, I have been talking in the last couple of weeks to some people who have been actual union organizers. The interesting thing about what most of them said is that I asked them, "Do you as unions go out there and go knocking on doors of business trying to organize them?" No. If you talk to most union organizers, they tell you that people call them. Of all organizing drives, 80% to 85% are the result of people in shops calling them, not unions going out and knocking on doors and recruiting people.

I think that's very important to keep in mind in our discussions about proposed labour relations changes that will be coming up. The reality of the situation is that there are many unhappy people out there who feel insecure about their jobs or feel unhappy about the type of management processes that are going on that are not fair to them, so I think we should keep that in mind.

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** I listened with some interest to the member's speech. Actually I was hoping that this time she would have a different understanding of the energy field, because as to this understanding or thought process that the fewer units of electricity we market the cheaper it will be, there isn't a marketplace on the continent that can work that way on any product.

To think this government is going to march on on that basis, that if we reduce the number of units sold we can sell them for less; there's only one way to sell them for less and that's increase the number of units sold. You have a market there that's controllable. The technology is there to control the market and I would ask the member to please think about that as far as a free market society is concerned.

**Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin):** I was interested in the statements of the member for Peterborough. I was kind of concerned from an environmental point of view. She has raised some very important issues in her speech. The strange thing, as our leader has said, is that the words don't match the music.

I didn't note in the speech from the throne that I read, or had the privilege of hearing His Honour deliver, that there was much mention of what she was talking about. I did not see in the speech from the throne—and members can correct me if it was there—a commitment to reducing fossil fuel emissions in this province. I didn't see a commitment to lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere. I didn't see any of those kinds of commitments.

We know, as members of this Legislature, that these are real problems and that many governments are taking positive steps towards doing those things. Western Europe has a remarkable program in many countries to do the very thing that I think this member was suggesting. What I find passing strange was that the speech from the throne itself did not discuss those at all.

I am also a little concerned with the energy policy she has discussed. I am concerned that the policy the government has adopted for Ontario Hydro will lead to more emissions in our atmosphere and will lead to higher, not lower, costs. I think the policy they have adopted is a lose-lose policy and I would be interested if the member at some point could clarify that for me. I am having great difficulty and we on this side just can't really understand why we should pay more for less and why the environment should have to suffer.

**Ms Carter:** There is really too much to cover in the time. To answer the member for Brant-Haldimand, I am well aware that there are a lot of people out there who are worried about the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act, but I think the point is that they have been well and truly brainwashed, at the cost of a great deal of money. There has been inaccurate information spread around as to what is intended. If, instead of panicking, people would look around at other jurisdictions—I mentioned Quebec but there are European countries, in particular Germany, which have a very good record of industrial relations, where this kind of thing is already in force.

To answer the member for Lanark-Renfrew, if he doesn't know that it costs us more to sell electricity that was just generated than it does to sell the hydro-electricity we have from the past, then I suggest he go back and do his homework. A nuclear power station would be about the most expensive way to go if we need more power. It would be cheaper to get non-utility generation on stream, which is one thing we're looking to increase over time, but the cheapest thing of all is conservation, which does lead to increased efficiency in other directions as well.

To the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, when I was talking about the environment, I had in mind the projected environmental bill of rights. Apparently the task force on that has agreed on the public's right to a healthy environment. People will have more participation, more power to act through the courts and so on, so that it would be easier for the public to have input in environmental matters.

Finally, I must thank the member for Oxford for his nice words.

The House adjourned at 1801.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affaires/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessinger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale



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COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 15 April 1992

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mercredi 15 avril 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





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### **Table des matières**

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste alphabétique de députés de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 15 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### WATER QUALITY QUALITÉ DE L'EAU

**Mr Jean Poirier (Prescott and Russell):** I stand in this House today to bring to your attention, Mr Speaker, the sixth biennial report of the International Joint Commission on Great Lakes Water Quality.

The Minister of the Environment will know that the report recommends that chlorine and other sources of persistent toxic substances that create toxic pollution should be phased out. The report cites experts' conclusions that contaminant levels of some of these chemicals, measured in humans, are in the same range and in some cases even greater than those found in adversely affected wildlife populations such as fish and birds.

On a découvert que ces substances chimiques endommagent les systèmes immunitaires et peuvent même produire des tumeurs chez les animaux. On ne connaît pas encore leurs effets à l'égard de la santé humaine.

I would like to remind you, Madam Minister, that in a letter of August 14, 1990, your Premier promised a "zero discharge program which would require total phase-out of the use in industry of persistent toxic chemicals," with a time line, as well as a phase-out of organochlorine dumping by the pulp and paper industry by the year 1993.

Well, 1993 is fast approaching and we have seen no action yet. Is this another broken promise or will we see some movement from your government? Perhaps if you cannot honour your original promise, you can at least today set a zero discharge date for the phase-out of chlorine-based bleaching in the pulp and paper industry. We eagerly await some action from your government on this issue.

### ORILLIA PERCH FESTIVAL

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My statement concerns a unique festival in the Sunshine City that features one of the best-tasting pan fish in existence. The 11th annual Orillia Perch Festival, sponsored by the Orillia and District Chamber of Commerce, is expected to attract thousands of anglers, young and old, male and female, to compete for more than \$135,000 worth of cash and prizes. This year's edition of the Orillia Perch Festival, which runs from April 17 to May 9, features 75 specially tagged perch in the waters of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe, each valued at \$500. Those reeling in one of those tagged fish will qualify for the \$10,000 grand prize.

I congratulate the Orillia and District Chamber of Commerce for the ongoing effort and hard work that have gone into sponsoring this event for the past 11 years. The Orillia Perch Festival is a fine example of how the people of the Sunshine City are ready, willing and able to promote our community in an atmosphere of goodwill, fun and festivity.

I invite my colleagues here in the Legislature and all the people watching these proceedings at home to visit the Sunshine City to do battle with the mighty fighting perch, one of the finest pan fish in all of Ontario.

Special congratulations go to Gary Cobourn, festival chairman, and his committee. If you want more information from the chamber of commerce, the hotline is 705-326-4424. Come and perch in Orillia.

### ALGONQUINS OF GOLDEN LAKE

**Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton):** I would like to read into the record an extract from the Algonquin petition of June 6, 1835, to His Excellency, Major General Sir John Colborne:

"The humble memorial of the chiefs and warriors of the Algonquin and Nipissingue Indians, in the name of themselves and their respective nations, tribes and kindred,

"Most respectfully represent,

"That we, the Indian chiefs and warriors who now most respectfully approach Your Excellency, do for ourselves and our respective nations, tribes, and kindred, humbly and obediently implore Your Excellency, as our temporal father and protector, to vouchsafe your gracious intention to a consideration of this humble memorial of the grievances and deprivations which we your...children have long endured patiently and submissively without complaint, under the conviction, however, that those grievances, now becoming more and more burdensome, when made known to Your Excellency our father would obtain retribution, justice and equality....

"We most humbly beg to expose to Your Excellency our father that we and our ancestors have immemorially, or from the remotest antiquity, held, used, occupied, possessed, and enjoyed as hunting grounds"—then they go on and talk about the land they have had.

For 220 years, the Algonquins of Golden Lake have sought justice and recognition of their history, culture and land claims. The interim agreement signed by the Minister of Natural Resources, representing the government of Ontario, and Chief Meness, representing the Algonquins of Golden Lake, on October 15, 1991, was a significant step forward in the negotiations between the aboriginal peoples and this government.

It is my pleasure to introduce to the House today, sitting in the east gallery, Chief Clifford Meness; Councillor Shirley Kohoko; Councillor Kirby Whiteduck; Councillor Doug Benoit; Greg Sarazin, chief negotiator; Dan Kohoko, negotiator; David Lewis, and Paul Williams. We are very pleased to have them here.

### HEALTH CARE

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** For many months, health care providers have become convinced that the Treasurer is in fact setting health care policy in Ontario. Arbitrary cutbacks of services, a freeze on new drugs, surprise cuts in prescription medication and massive closings



of hospital beds across Ontario are the mark of this government's policy.

We know that the member for Yorkview is also usurping some of the authority of the Minister of Health and making his own demands and providing his own directions.

Concerns about who is responsible for health policy and how decisions are made abound through the province.

The government has embarked upon a so-called consultative process on the future delivery of long-term care, yet we see that many of the decisions have been made and that the process is clearly a sham.

The question arises as to who made these decisions. Was it the Treasurer? Did the member for Yorkview have his say? And further, on what basis were the decisions made?

Who decided what will be included in a long-term care system, and why? Those decisions have been made. Who decided that nursing homes and homes for the aged will become long-term care facilities in 1993, and why? That decision has been made. Who decided that the Alberta patient classification system will define a long-term care patient's requirements, and why? That decision has been made. Many other decisions have been made as well.

In the end, who has decided that the consultation process on long-term care should be so circumscribed and that stakeholders don't really count in shaping a new direction in long-term care? Was it the member for Yorkview?

1340

#### EDUCATION FINANCING

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** If the Ontario government gave a hot air award to the politician who can say the least in the most words, the hands-down winner would be the Minister of Education, who has mumbled on for two weeks about the chaos in our schools without offering any solutions.

Last week the Peel Board of Education decided to eliminate junior kindergarten and make cuts to other programs like English as a second language because it faces a cash crisis. The minister responded by calling the Peel board irresponsible and asking it to find creative solutions to its financial problems.

However, it is the minister who is irresponsible and must find creative solutions to a problem that was caused by his government. Early last year the NDP government signed a trend-setting contract with OPSEU for a 5.8% wage hike. Last fall many school boards, including Peel, negotiated contracts with their teachers for similar salary increases. Then in January the Treasurer announced that provincial funding to school boards would increase by just 1%, 2% and 2% for the next three years. How then can the boards meet their contractual obligations without cutting programs and staff?

The Minister of Education still refuses to accept responsibility for the financial crisis. He has met with the chair of the Peel Board of Education but still did not offer financial assistance. After the meeting the minister was still talking about finding creative solutions.

The students, parents and teachers in Peel are fed up with programs and jobs being cut because the Bob Rae NDP government cannot manage its fiscal responsibilities.

#### GODERICH-EXETER RAILWAY

**Mr Paul Klopp (Huron):** I am glad today to stand in the House and announce that the Goderich-Exeter railway line is back in action. With the cooperation of the provincial government and the private sector we turned a bad decision into a good decision.

On April 3 the CN line from Stratford to Goderich and from Clinton to Centralia became officially known as the Goderich-Exeter railway line. This government again has demonstrated that it can work with private business. It was one of my first official duties as an MLA. I introduced, as you will recall last fall, Bill Pr22, An Act respecting Goderich-Exeter Railway Company Limited, which allowed the province to take over responsibilities the federal government has decided it doesn't want to do any more.

The continuation of this line is very important for a number of reasons. In Huron county it connects the southern end of my riding to the centre. The line will start by handling such commodities as salt from the Goderich Sifto mine to handling fertilizer, grains etc from our numerous elevators in the south. It also is a very positive attitude and atmosphere for our commerce and our community. Down the road it will only help to revitalize our rural community.

I am glad this company has decided to work with us. I only hope it can do more and better things down the road. I have seen a number of communities already helping to work this out. I can only wish it the best.

#### JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** The present NDP Attorney General, as the province's chief law officer, falls far short of the standards expected of this office. Here is the latest example: In December 1988, the then Attorney General, the member for St George-St David, established the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Judicial Appointments with one of the stated goals being to "do a great deal to remove any unwarranted criticism of political bias or patronage in appointments to the judiciary."

Committee member and Windsor law professor Emily Carasco was first appointed by the NDP in December 1990. Some three months ago Carasco became an active high-profile candidate for a federal NDP nomination in Windsor, yet on April 8, 1992, we learn that the Attorney General, only four days before the NDP nomination, has signed with his own hand the appointment papers promoting Carasco to chair of the judicial appointments advisory committee. Even more disgusting is that news of this appointment was apparently plastered all over the walls at the nominating convention.

The Attorney General and law professor Carasco know full well they used the sensitive and non-partisan position of chair of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Appointments for crass partisan political purposes. They have both debased the administration of justice in Ontario and they

both know Carasco should resign, which as of this morning she had not done.

#### ORANGEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** There are some very special people within the town of Orangeville I would like to honour today. Within my riding of Dufferin-Peel and the town of Orangeville, the Orangeville fire department has many volunteers giving their time and energy for the benefit of all.

We have eight residents in Orangeville who have been doing just that job for a minimum of 25 years each. They have given their time to protect our homes and lives. These gentlemen have served in the fire department for a combined total of some 247 years, 247 years of putting their lives on the line to protect and save their neighbours' property, children and persons, 247 years of running into burning buildings not knowing what they are going to find.

I would like to personally thank them for their service to the town of Orangeville and its surrounding communities and wish them continued health in serving their community. Please join me in thanking Captain Terry Arthurs, with 25 years; Captain Bob Richardson, with 25 years; Captain John Mountford, with 25 years; Captain Bob Priester, with 27 years; firefighter John Cronin, with 30 years; firefighter Bob Montgomery, with 35 years; training officer George McGowan, with 40 years, and Fire Chief Bill Noble, serving the town of Orangeville fire department for 40 years.

#### NIAGARA FALLS

**Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls):** On this early spring afternoon just before the Easter weekend, the people of Ontario are probably looking forward to enjoying some of the natural beauty of spring in Ontario. What more beautiful spot to visit than Niagara any time over the next few weeks? Each Friday I drive the Niagara Parkway from the historic village of Chippawa, where I live, down past the falls to my office on Queen Street in downtown Niagara Falls. I am very lucky because I enjoy the falls every day.

I can report to you that the crocuses are blooming on the hillside and the daffodils are about to burst forth everywhere on the lawns of Queen Victoria Park. There are lots of choice of things to do. You can enjoy a romantic picnic by the falls or at Dufferin Islands nature area. How about a hike down the gorge through the rough terrain of the Niagara Glen to the roar of the rushing water below? How about a game of golf by the whirlpool or a visit to historic Queenston Heights for a view across all of Lake Ontario? There are lots of winery tours available.

Please don't forget the Blossom Festival parade May 8, when the fruitland all across Niagara will be in blossom. Enjoy spring in Niagara.

#### VISITOR

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Before proceeding, I invite all members to welcome to our chamber this afternoon, seated in the members' gallery west, a former member of the assembly, indeed a minister of the crown, the former member for Oakwood, Ms Chaviva Hošek. Welcome.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** Today I am announcing a series of reforms that will improve service to the public. These reforms will help get good projects under way while preserving the highest standards of environmental protection.

The province of Ontario has a strong record of environmental protection. However, the administration of our environmental laws and programs has become complex and time-consuming. We have to ensure that these laws work efficiently, effectively and fairly. This is particularly important in difficult economic times.

The reforms I am proposing have been developed in consultation with the people affected by the programs. They fall into four areas: environmental assessment, land use planning reviews, certificates of approval and waste management approvals.

Ontario's environmental assessment program is a powerful tool for ensuring environmentally sound development in the province. The EA program has delivered approvals and built public acceptance for many controversial projects. However, it has been the target of considerable criticism. Many people view the process as obstructive because of problems with its administration.

Let me take this opportunity to clarify some of the misunderstanding. Since 1976 thousands of projects have fallen under the jurisdiction of the Environmental Assessment Act. The workload has more than doubled in the past five years, with 492 projects handled in 1991 alone. However, very few of these go through a full environmental assessment process. Most projects, such as municipal road development, go through a simple class environmental assessment. They do not need their own environmental assessment approval. In fact, only about 6% of projects that come under the act require a complete individual EA, and of all projects only 1% go to a hearing.

A review of the EA program began in 1988. It has involved extensive public consultation. This review has confirmed public support for the act, but it has also recommended a number of administrative improvements. We are proceeding immediately with these reforms, and these reforms will strengthen the efficiency and the effectiveness of the EA process.

#### 1350

We have already begun to accelerate the process itself. In the last fiscal year we completed more government reviews of EA projects than in the previous four years combined. In addition to speeding up the government review process, I now intend to implement the following reforms:

First, we want to provide clearer direction to proponents and the public about what is expected of them in the EA process, particularly in the early stages. The primary tool for achieving this will be clear, written guidelines for proponents.

Second, we want the government to review individual EA documents in one third of the time it takes today. Our goal is to reduce the time of the entire EA process by one



half when there is no hearing. We plan to accomplish this through a series of measures. These include deadlines for document reviews, a standard review format and concurrent government agency and public review of selected EA documents.

Third, the ministry will be working with the Environmental Assessment Board to reduce the average length of hearings and use negotiation to reduce the need for hearings. This negotiating strategy was already successful in approving the Spadina subway extension. We are committed to applying the same principles of efficiency and effectiveness to land use planning and to the review process.

In order to reduce the time it takes to review development proposals, the ministry is developing guidelines to give clear directions to developers, consultants and municipalities. We are also providing input to the Sewell Commission on Planning and Development Reform. We believe environmental planning should be incorporated into the official plans of municipalities. This would reduce or eliminate the need to review individual development proposals.

The third area we are focusing on is the time it takes to issue certificates of approval. Our legislation requires that companies obtain approvals or permits from the Ministry of the Environment for any undertaking that has an impact on the environment. Each year the ministry issues over 10,000 certificates of approval. Here again the high volume of applications in combination with their increasing complexity and the number of incomplete applications have made it difficult to process these approvals quickly.

As a first step to improve this process, we will provide clearer direction to applicants to save them time and ensure applications are complete. This will include pre-application consultation, guidance manuals and simplified application forms. The ministry is also developing regulations which will allow activities with little environmental impact to proceed without individual approvals, for example, the replacement of sewer and water lines. We will be consulting the public on these regulations, and our aim is to cut the present turnaround time for approvals in half.

As part of our reform of the approvals process, a working group involving Pollution Probe and the Ontario Waste Management Association has looked specifically at waste management approvals. They have made recommendations that will improve communications among the proponent, the ministry and interested citizens. We are already starting to act on their advice, and I'd like to thank the chair of that committee, Mr Doug Macdonald, for his input and help.

My ministry is listening to people, and we are taking action to improve the level of service. The results already illustrate what can be achieved, and we are confident we will see even more progress in the year ahead.

#### BUDGET

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** I wish to advise the House that I intend to present the 1992 Ontario budget to this Legislature on Thursday, April 30, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

#### BEER INDUSTRY

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** I would like to bring the House up to date on Canada's negotiations with the United States on the GATT panel report on provincial beer policies.

On March 31 I announced the measures Ontario would be taking to comply fully with the findings of the GATT report. I indicated that Ontario was prepared to implement policies to provide equal, competitive opportunities to both foreign and domestic brewers in the Ontario beer marketplace.

The Ontario beer industry is a significant contributor to the provincial economy. The government of Ontario is working in partnership with the industry and brewery workers to allow us to meet the competitive challenges that lie ahead in a more open international beer market.

We have put forward a realistic time frame to meet the requirements of the GATT panel. This allows a period of transition for our industry and our brewery workers to adjust to the new policies, and also provides time for legislative change. The transition period is consistent with transition times agreed to in the free trade agreement and in other GATT disputes.

The United States has threatened retaliation if we are not able to resolve this issue through negotiation. Canada's Minister for International Trade, Michael Wilson, has stated that the US threat to impose a retroactive duty is unwarranted and inconsistent with both the rules of GATT and the FTA. I agree. Ontario also supports the federal government's intention to respond in kind if US retaliation is taken.

Members may be aware that Canada has brought a complaint to GATT against US federal and state measures on the sale of Canadian beer, wine and cider. I am sure all members of this House will support the strong stand taken by Ontario and the federal government. It is unfortunate that tensions have escalated in this area when Canada has responded so positively to the GATT panel report.

Ontario believes that a negotiated resolution of this dispute with the United States can be worked out in the best interests of all parties.

#### RESPONSES

##### ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

**Mr Jean Poirier (Prescott and Russell):** Pertaining to the Minister of the Environment's announcement, I must admit that in principle it seems to be quite an inviolable goal. Who will want to go against cutting down on the process and the red tape and whatever? But after studying the impact and how Bill 143 was brought about, with this truncated environmental assessment process on landfill sites, I am kind of interested in how this is going to translate in reality as to how the Environmental Assessment Act is going to be handled or how the principles are going to be flushed down the drain or how they are going to be diluted.

I just wonder, with very few specifics, how they will come to do this. We've seen what has happened to their good principles in the past. It's like Scrooge at Christmastime. I



just wonder how she will go about doing this. Will she hire more public servants, and at what cost? There are a lot more questions raised than answers right now. Rest assured that we will follow that very closely.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Just to continue, if I might, the response to the statement made by the Minister of the Environment, there is an old adage that we in this House should be judged not by our words but by our actions. The actions of the Minister of the Environment have destabilized the effective regulation of matters relating to the environment.

Her conduct in that regard is unprecedented in the history of this province. She is gutting whatever good processes we have had, and if you look at what she has done on Bill 143, which represents the most arbitrary rejection of ordinary principles of a fair hearing and good standards in determining what we should do with our garbage, that's what the minister ought to be judged on.

If you look at what she did on the Ataratiri project, her lack of action, her inability to move forward with that project and her interference with that project is now costing the province \$60,000 every single day. The lands of Ataratiri sit idle and contaminated. That problem rests right at the feet of the Minister of the Environment.

Finally, I might just raise the question of biomedical waste. We have now in this province 100 hospitals that are burning biomedical waste; 99 of those hospitals have no pollution control devices at all. Some 60% of our biomedical wastes are being shipped out of the province and burned in Gatineau, Quebec, or shipped to the United States.

The Minister of the Environment simply cannot come to grips with the problems. She is characterized over the first 18 months of her reign as a minister who is dictatorial on the one hand and unable to take action on the other hand. The announcement today changes that in no respect whatever.

1400

#### BUDGET

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** I would like to respond to the Treasurer's comment and say that my concern is that it looks like the Premier's office is having its way with the Treasurer. I know the Treasurer would want to introduce the budget at a time when we could have a debate about it. Having it on a Thursday afternoon, when the whole weekend will go by and not allow the House to debate, was, I'm sure, the Premier's suggestion.

I'm just afraid the Premier may have his way in that I know the Premier would like to report only the operating deficit. I would hope the Treasurer wouldn't let him get away with that, because I know the Treasurer will want to show the full deficit. I know the Treasurer's Fair Tax Commission reported to him and that he would want to take its advice and not have the Premier tell him to put a capital tax in.

Finally, I would hope he can convince the Premier to stay around when the heat's on, because unless I miss my bet, once again we'll see the Premier fly off somewhere

after a few days and leave the Treasurer to take all the heat. It's about time the Treasurer had his way with the Premier's office.

#### BEER INDUSTRY

**Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights):** I want to thank the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations for keeping us up to date on the discussions about beer. I agree that we should have an adequate transition period. I'll be interested to see how she can withstand the pressure to reduce it from the three years.

I also find it passing strange that a government that vowed it would not implement any of the free trade agreement and would resist it is using that as its argument for why it wants to do this.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I'm just wondering something as I respond. I'm wondering if the statement by the Minister of the Environment will be mailed to London, England, to the former Treasurer of the province of Ontario, who is very interested in this subject and has finally won the day.

#### BUDGET

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** I want to briefly respond to the Treasurer's statement today. I believe this is a first in Ontario. It's the first time the Treasurer will be introducing a budget on a Thursday afternoon at 4 pm, when there's no question period the succeeding day. I'm sure that is just a coincidence. I might say—without, I think, divulging any confidentialities—that we were actually asked for our opinion as to what we on this side of the House thought would be an appropriate budget day, and out of 999 dates, this ranked 1,000th.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** In responding to the statement by the Minister of the Environment, I have to wonder, if that statement had been made by the former government when she was the critic for the Environment, what the reaction would have been. There would probably have been blood-letting in the streets, I might suggest.

We're obviously very concerned about a revision and any improvements that can be made to the environmental assessment process. We've been asking for it for a number of years now. But this has got to be the worst example of a non-statement we've had from this government in some several months, because there's no time frame. When you ask the question, "When will this become effective?" they're working on it. It's like coming out and saying, "I'm going to wave this flag because this is what we're going to do," but there's no parade behind you because they don't know where their parade is going. They are so far out to lunch, they don't have a clue what's going on in this province today. This statement is just an example of that.

When we read that the reforms will "get good projects under way," I have to wonder if those good projects are going to be on their jelly bean list of pet projects they



support, not necessarily supported by the rest of the people of this province. We will be very interested to see when this becomes effective and how they will select those "good projects."

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** Just a few moments ago the Minister of the Environment was kind enough to let me share with some of her officials the problems in my home town of Manotick, where we have a serious problem with water quality. We have over 100 wells which are poisoned at the present time and the people are drinking bottled water. It's amazing that in order to solve this problem we're going to have to make it an emergency situation, which is going to cost \$4.6 million, and that solution is not going to be a permanent solution. In order to take the permanent solution, we have to bring water and sewers from Ottawa out to Manotick, which is some 10 miles south of Ottawa.

The reason we have to take the interim measure is because the environmental assessment hearing will take somewhere between four and five years to complete. Our province has come to a situation now where hearings, the stalling of the process, tie our hands so that we cannot face emergency situations which obviously have to be fixed. We're going to spend somewhere around \$4.5 million, which is going to have to be discarded in about five or six years when the sewers and water do come to the town of Manotick.

We need even more than what the minister is talking today. We need real action so we can take real action in the community and resolve our environmental problems.

#### BEER INDUSTRY

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** Just a few comments on the remarks made by the minister on Canadian beer. It's the first time I've ever heard a statement that's been made some weeks after a press release was made on provincial beer policies. I've never heard of a statement given after a press release was given several weeks before. It seems to be the minister's policy on a number of things, whether it be gambling casinos, taxes on headstones; it seems to be a reaction to something.

What took you so long and when are you going to do something with the Honda crisis, the softwood lumber issue? It's good to see that you're working with the federal government finally and not pointing fingers at it.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** To the Minister of the Environment, finally, after some five years in opposition and some 18 months in power, a record as long as your arm on the need to speed up the environmental process, and this is the best you could deliver: no time lines, nothing, just baffle-gab. Minister, at this rate you'll be back on this side of the House when you've finally made a decision.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I regret having to stand on a point of order, but what is out of order is that we've been told that the Premier would have arrived in the chamber at 2 o'clock in preparation for questions. We've planned our daily sched-

ule around his imminent appearance. The difficulty for us is that he appears so seldom that when these special occasions present themselves, we like to attend upon his arrival.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Mr Elston:** As unaccustomed as I am to introducing the Premier of the province to all assembled, I would like to say that he has just arrived. The gentleman, with his red tie, who is now seated and smiling is, for all the people of the province to observe, the real Premier of the province of Ontario. We haven't seen him in a while.

**The Speaker:** To the member for Bruce, obviously his alleged point of order had some immediate effect.

1410

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### COMPENSATION OF ONTARIO HYDRO CHAIRPERSON

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** My two questions today are to the leader of the government, and they concern promise versus performance. In the first case I want to draw the attention of the House and the attention of the first minister to what I thought was an interesting and helpful set of remarks the Premier is reported to have made to the NDP provincial council in Toronto, I believe, on Sunday, March 29, during which speech the Premier is reported to have said, "Look, the days of 4%, 5%, 6%, 7% wage increases are gone." He went on to say, "As for people who keep pressing on blithely saying, 'That's what they got last year; that's what somebody else got,' I'm sorry, we're living in a 1% to 2% inflation world."

Certainly my constituents in Renfrew county would support the Premier in that direction. Having regard to that speech, then, having regard to the restraint message contained in those remarks to the NDP provincial council, my constituents would want me to ask the leader of the government, what kind of deal, Mr Premier, did you make on June 6, 1991, with Mr Marc Eliesen, chairman and chief executive officer of Ontario Hydro? I want you to answer this as leader of the government, because it's your appointment, it's your order in council, he's your friend.

In this world of 1% to 2% inflation, Mr Eliesen has reportedly received an increase in pay from \$120,000 as a deputy minister to \$260,000 as chairman and chief executive officer of Ontario Hydro. The press today reports he has so much money he now gets \$1,000 worth of benefits in terms of financial services to tell him how to invest his money.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member conclude his question, please.

**Mr Conway:** Will you table in this House, at the earliest opportunity, all the information relating to Mr Eliesen's salary, pension and other benefits, including a potential bonus? Will you do that in the quickest way you can?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I'm going to refer this question to the Minister of Energy.

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and acting Minister of Energy):** The member for Renfrew North has chosen to raise a question here today over which there has been something of a controversy in the media during recent weeks. It is a useful opportunity for us to clear up some of the very incorrect information that has been out about the chairman of Hydro.

First, let me say the executive salaries at Ontario are salaries that have been determined by the board of Hydro and have evolved over a 75-year history. The member for Renfrew North, for example, knows full well the chairman of Hydro in fact took a salary reduction, not an increase, when he took that post.

There was an accusation made in the media that the chairman of Ontario Hydro was receiving a two-for-one pension. That also is not correct. The chairman of Ontario Hydro is a member of the Hydro pension and is receiving credits in that pension at one for one, based on his salary at Ontario Hydro. He has an option to take the two-for-one in the deputy's salary, if he wishes to do so, based on a deputy minister's salary.

**The Speaker:** Would the minister conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Charlton:** This government, for the first time in Hydro's 75-year history, has referred this matter to the Ontario Energy Board. All the documents that made up that story in the media this morning have been tabled with the Ontario Energy Board. That's where this story came from, the documents tabled with the energy board. There will be a public hearing in June. The public may participate in that hearing. This government is committed to dealing with this issue openly with the public of this province.

**Mr Conway:** My question is to the leader of the government, who has littered this legislative landscape for years with what he would do if he ever had the opportunity. I want the Premier to tell me and to promise the people of Ontario that he will do at least this: table in this Legislature all the details of the arrangement the Bob Rae government made with respect to the hiring of Marc Eliesen as chairman and chief executive officer of Ontario Hydro.

I can well understand how there might be some confusion, because we have had, for example, one incident after another: the chairman of Hydro saying, and the former Minister of Energy bragging, that he had voluntarily taken a pay cut from \$400,000 to \$260,000. What the Rae government didn't tell Hydro ratepayers and the Legislature was that on the same day the cabinet extended his term by two years, to cite but one example.

Will the Premier, consistent with his promises, say to this Legislature that he will unequivocally and at the first opportunity table all the details concerning the salary, the pension, the bonus, if any, and all of this other gold-plated splendour so that the poor, recession-ridden taxpayers can see what Marc Eliesen is earning in this recession world of 1% and 2%?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** First of all, there was no special arrangement between this government and Marc Eliesen, the new chairman of Ontario Hydro.

**Mr Scott:** How do you know? The Premier made it, not you.

**The Speaker:** The member for St George-St David, come to order.

**Hon Mr Charlton:** As a matter of fact, Mr Eliesen is in receipt of benefits that are identical to those of all the other executives at Ontario Hydro, a benefits package which evolved under the former administration. All of those documents have been tabled with the Ontario Energy Board. They are now on the public record, for the information of the member for Renfrew North. They will be subject to a public hearing in June and fully disclosed.

I suggest to the member for Renfrew North and other members in opposition that they take a long, hard look in the mirror at why, if they are so outraged now, they kept quiet about these arrangements for five full years.

**Mr Conway:** It'll be a frosty Friday in July before I appoint my research director to a \$400,000 patronage job, that's why.

I want to say to the Premier, who lacerated Bill Davis and Frank Miller seven years ago for the two-for-one pension arrangement for deputy ministers, that I do not want to remind him of what he said Frank Miller should do about the two-for-one deal. I read the Hydro policy of the Rae government to mean that its hallmarks were openness and accountability. I say to the Premier that the only public hearing I care about is the one to which my electors sent me to participate in, namely the Legislature.

Will you or will you not, at the earliest opportunity, as leader of this government which purports to have a Hydro policy of openness and accountability, table in this House all of the details in respect of Mr Eliesen's pay, his benefits, his bonus and other perquisites, particularly in light of your advice and injunction to the NDP provincial council that we all have to get real and live with less because it's a 1% and 2% world?

**Mr Scott:** Not a snowball's chance in hell.

**The Speaker:** The member for St George-St David.

**Hon Mr Charlton:** Again I repeat what I said earlier. The member for Renfrew North, in his usual fashion, keeps referring to two-for-one pensions. Mr Eliesen is not in receipt of any two-for-one pension. He's contributing to the Ontario Hydro pension on a one-for-one basis and will continue to do so.

All the documents the member refers to have been referred to the Ontario Energy Board, the board this Legislature created as the independent body to review Hydro matters. It's all in the public domain. It will be part of a public hearing. It's the first time in this province's history we've had the opportunity to have this kind of public review, and we look forward to it.

**Mr Conway:** Mr Speaker, their embarrassment must be endless. Their silence is all-telling. I'll tell you, George Bush had John Sununu and the Premier has Marc Eliesen and we're happy with this marriage and long may it prosper.



1420

## MINISTER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** I have a new question to the leader of the government. It also concerns promise versus performance, in this respect the standards of conduct for members of his cabinet and the next tier, the parliamentary assistants.

Mr Premier, since you and I last had the opportunity in this chamber to discuss the so-called Martel affair, a legislative committee has been told the following: that the Minister of Northern Development, by her own admission, told the committee about a month ago that she believed her conduct was far below that which she understood was called for by your conflict guidelines. The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour, the member for Sudbury, admitted in that committee that she fabricated income concerning a Sudbury physician, made no effort to verify that fabrication and then allowed that information to be distributed broadly through the Sudbury community.

My question to the leader of the government, the sole arbiter of his conflict-of-interest guidelines, is: Given what your guidelines state and what the two honourable members have openly admitted to, how is it that they continue to hold their offices of Minister of Northern Development and parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** Ironically, this is almost exactly the same question the member was asking in December before the committee was established. I want to say to the honourable member that despite all the allegations made on the other side, all the innuendo, all the projection as to what would happen, all the allegations made by members opposite with respect to what would happen and all the allegations of coverup and so on, what the committee found after all was said and done is exactly what we knew on the first day: that the minister had a conversation with Evelyn Dodds which she profoundly regrets and she has stated categorically she apologizes for. That is, I think, the nub of the question.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The nub of the question is, after all the work of the select committee: What do we know now that we didn't know then? The answer is: We know the minister had no access to confidential information. We know that no members had access to confidential information—

**Mr Scott:** Martel is a liar.

**The Speaker:** Would the Premier take his seat, please. The member for St George-St David, this is, as we know, a very difficult and sensitive issue. I think the choice of vocabulary is very important for members and I would ask the member to keep that in mind.

**Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I know this is a matter of some delicacy, but we have a situation where I have raised this point of order exactly for this purpose, where the member for Sudbury East has admitted that she lied. She has taken a lie detector test to prove that she has lied. A member on our

side referred to the fact that she had lied and you have raised the point that he can't do that. Do you not think there is an inconsistency here?

**The Speaker:** The standing orders are quite clear. Regardless of what a member says, no other member may accuse a member of lying in the House.

**Mr Scott:** I accused her of nothing. She said what she did, and you know what that was.

**The Speaker:** I'm sorry, the rules are very clear. Has the Premier concluded his response?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I've concluded my response.

**Mr Conway:** The Rae government began its career in this place 15 or 17 months ago with His Honour reading a speech from the throne that contained these words:

"My government's"—the Rae government's—"first challenge is to earn the trust and respect of the people of Ontario...Our task is to guard against institutional arrogance and the abuse of power wherever they exist."

Those are enormously uplifting words. I take the Oxford-educated Premier back to the central question and I want the Oxford-educated Premier to turn his mind to what it is we know are the uncontested facts of the evidence. He now harbours within his cabinet two people, one of whom has admitted to losing it, flying off the handle and lying and smearing a public citizen in a contested debate about public policy. He's got a parliamentary assistant who has caused fabricated information to be distributed in her community.

Mr Premier, in light of what they have admitted to having done and having regard to your first challenge, which is to maintain the trust, to impose a high and good standard to earn that trust, how is it possible that these two people are still in your cabinet?

**Hon Mr Rae:** First of all, I think the member would want to make it clear that he's referring to one member of the cabinet. The member for Sudbury, I think, is the nature of the other allegation he is making—that is, the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Labour. Let me just say, in response very directly to the member, that this is almost exactly, I think to the note, the same level of synthetic indignation he managed to produce in the period before Christmas.

I would say to the honourable member that in response to a demand by the opposition for an inquiry, because of all the other allegations that were being made with respect to the conduct of allegedly countless members of the cabinet, public servants at every level, ministry officials and so on, we had members of the opposition coming out on the second day of the hearing saying that they didn't need to hear from anybody; they knew what the answers were. They didn't need to hear what happened.

The member asks about institutional arrogance. I want to point out that we set up a committee. The committee heard from everyone. The minister had a chance to tell her story, as others had to tell their side of what took place.

I am satisfied that the account the minister has given in this House and the account this government gave in this House in December is the account that is in fact the case—

that is, the minister did something which she profoundly regrets and for which she has apologized—and that there is no substance to all the other myriad allegations which were made by members of the opposition.

**Mr Conway:** There is a delicious irony in this entire affair and it is this: Since the Premier and I last chatted in this place, the justice minister, the Attorney General, has fired a constituency assistant for his involvement in the Martel affair. The Minister of Revenue, to her credit, as it was to the credit of the minister of justice, has suspended a constituency assistant for remarks she is alleged to have made about the operation of a clinic in her city of Thunder Bay. I say the two honourable members showed leadership in that connection.

But what have we now, I ask the Premier? Do we have a higher and tougher standard being imposed by his Attorney General and Minister of Revenue upon constituency staffers for lower-order offences while the Premier stands idly by and does nothing to discipline two members, one in cabinet who has admitted to lying and to conduct well below the Premier's guidelines, and a parliamentary assistant who has admitted to disseminating false information about a doctor's income? Do we have two standards: a higher standard for constituency staffers which the Attorney General and the Minister of Revenue have been prepared to enforce, to the detriment of those two staffers, and two parliamentarians who have not been disciplined by the leader of the government?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The short answer to the member's question, if I was able to follow it correctly, is no.

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** To the Premier about the same issue: Mr Premier, a moment ago you referred to a question about institutional arrogance. What would you say about a cabinet minister who, on the very morning before a committee of the Legislature begins its deliberations surrounding its report—I'm speaking now of your Minister of Northern Development—on the morning of March 30 tells the media: "I don't care what this committee of the Legislature decides. I'm not resigning. If I was going to resign, I would've done that last December. I don't care what they find, I don't care what the recommendations are, I'm not quitting."

1430

**Hon Mr Rae:** All kinds of things have been said. I want to say to the member for Parry Sound that he knows full well that all kinds of comments were made by members of the opposition the first day or the second day of the hearings that I saw reported in the media.

**Mr Eves:** I'm asking you what you think of that comment.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I'm responding very directly to the member's question.

**Mr Eves:** No, you are not. You are responding to some other question that you would rather respond to.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The allegations were made by the member as well as by others with respect to all the possi-

bilities with respect to access to confidential information by the minister or by others with respect to this question.

My answer going directly to the member is this: The minister has indicated in every statement she's made to the committee and everywhere else exactly what happened and exactly what took place. That is a clear indication of her willingness to participate fully in the committee hearings, to answer fully the questions that were put to her, the participation by other ministers to do exactly the same.

I can understand the concern of the honourable member because, having made all the allegations, there must surely be a degree of embarrassment on the other side that the vast majority of the allegations that were made didn't in fact prove to be the case.

**Mr Eves:** I just want to put on the record that the only allegation I ever made was that the minister lied and breached the Premier's guidelines. That has been vindicated 110%.

I would also like to remind the Premier that the terms of reference of this committee were not just looking into confidential information, something that the government over there wants to conveniently forget. They were to look into the conduct of the minister of the crown. The same minister of the crown has admitted she has breached the Premier's guidelines on two separate occasions in the past six months. She then went on to say in committee on March 11, "I can't say that if I was put in a similar situation tomorrow I wouldn't do the same thing all over again." How many strikes before she is out? Three?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I can only say to the honourable member that it is clear to me on the basis of what I have heard, and the report is being tabled this afternoon, that the questions he is asking are precisely the same as the questions he asked last December. It was in response to the concerns he raised and others raised with respect to a whole other range of allegations with respect to confidential information, with respect to a whole other range of issues that were being raised on a daily basis in the two weeks prior to Christmas.

**Mr Eves:** Three bullet points. Those are the terms of reference. Read them out.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Yes, we have nothing to hide. Let the information come forward. Let the officials come forward. We appointed a member of the opposition as the Chairman. The whole thing was worked out in what turned out in the end to be a consensual way in terms of the process. As a result of what took place, despite all the statements that were made about access to confidential information by ministers, I will say directly to the member, if he will simply listen: Those allegations prove to be unfounded.

We now know what we knew then. I will say to the member that the minister clearly cooperated with the committee in every regard, told her experience and has clearly expressed that experience to members of the committee. I think that in the circumstances the members of the opposition have to realize that they got the committee they were looking for. Perhaps they didn't get the confirmation of the



various allegations that they were looking for, but that is the way it takes place as a result of a committee investigation.

**Mr Eves:** People across this province, certainly in my constituency and in other constituencies, want to know this very fundamental fact about your government, Mr Premier: If lying is not ground for dismissal from cabinet, what is?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I am satisfied that the minister has apologized very clearly for what took place in that conversation with Evelyn Dodds in Thunder Bay. The minister has apologized for that as clearly and categorically as she can.

#### COMPENSATION OF ONTARIO HYDRO CHAIRPERSON

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Premier regarding Marc Eliesen. On October 21, you told this House:

"There were no terms and conditions, either considered by cabinet or discussed by cabinet, other than the fact that Mr Eliesen's appointment took place with the understanding that his salary would be what it is today....That is the beginning and that is the end of it and that is the full story."

We now know, thanks to the Toronto Sun, that this indeed was not the full story. So either Marc Eliesen is not your friend, wasn't your choice for Ontario Hydro and you know absolutely nothing about what is going on, or you were Martelling in this House. Which is it?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I think the Minister of Energy is best equipped to answer with regard to the question of Mr Eliesen's status.

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and acting Minister of Energy):** Obviously the leader of the third party didn't listen to the answers earlier this afternoon in this House. The story to which the leader of the third party is referring is a story that results from documents that were tabled with the Ontario Energy Board by Hydro regarding the matters referred by this minister for review at the Ontario Energy Board. There was no discussion of those issues and benefits at cabinet. The Premier's earlier comments are correct. The benefits package which is in place for Mr Eliesen is the identical benefits package that is available to all Hydro executives, the standard produced by the board of Ontario Hydro.

**Mr Harris:** On December 4, the Premier stood in this House and told us there was no secret deal. When he was asked directly to reveal the details of the conversation, not once did he tell us that Marc Eliesen had been given the use of two cars, a home security system or \$1,000 in financial planning. In fact, it seems the only thing Marc Eliesen didn't get was the free fridge.

In a court of law, if a witness does not tell the whole truth, that witness is in contempt of court. Can the Premier explain to me why his not telling the whole truth should not stand him in contempt of this Legislature?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** Again, the leader of the third party is choosing not to listen here this afternoon, and it might be useful if perhaps he did listen this time. The

Premier had no discussion and the cabinet had no discussion about the benefits package, a benefits package that is decided by the board of Ontario Hydro and provided to all the executives at Ontario Hydro, depending on their salary, rank and so on.

There were no discussions in cabinet about those benefits. The Premier, in his response to the leader of the third party last fall, set out a response about what was discussed in cabinet. None of those matters were discussed. They are part of documents that have been tabled with the Ontario Energy Board at the request of this government so we can have a full, open, public review of the whole matter.

**Mr Harris:** Every time we turn around, we find another golden government Easter egg underneath the bush, every day that goes by. The only reason that we've heard it's okay is: "Oh, this is Marc Eliesen. He's the Premier's pal." That is the only thing that seems to be different.

Mr Speaker, through you—and through whoever else I have to direct the question to—to the Premier: You hired your crony, your pal Marc Eliesen. Over the objections of the Hydro board, you hired him. This is your responsibility. I want to know how the Premier can stand behind the revelation that is coming forward of this kind of decadence at a time when Hydro rates are going up 9%. How can you stand behind that?

1440

**Hon Mr Charlton:** The question which the Leader of the Opposition raises is in my view somewhat unconnected to the others, but let me respond by saying again that the decisions the Ontario Hydro board has made are decisions that it has been making over 75 years in this province. The level of salaries, the level of benefits provided to the executives at Ontario Hydro have evolved through Liberal and Conservative administrations over the course of 75 years. The Leader of the Opposition might also take note of the fact that the rate increases that are now occurring have evolved as a result of decisions made in Liberal and Conservative administrations over the last 15 years.

**Mr Harris:** Thank old Leslie Frost. He foisted it on us. That's terrible.

**Hon Mr Charlton:** No, it was Bill Davis in 1976.

We believe it's time to have an open airing of these issues at the Ontario Energy Board so that we can deal in an open and straightforward way with questions that have been raised here, and that's what we intend to do.

#### MINISTER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** I would like to return to the Premier and to the Martel affair. The minister first got into some difficulty with the Premier when she wrote an impermissible letter to the College of Physicians and Surgeons. She offered her resignation for that at the time, and the Premier refused to accept it. She then got into difficulty again when she went to Thunder Bay, and when charged with an account of the matter, she explained to the House and outside the House that she had lied on a political matter by making up these facts to make a doctor in Sudbury look bad. She again, I gather, offered her resignation, but

the Premier wouldn't accept that either because she said as well that she was sorry.

In this House she was asked if she would ever do a thing like that again and she said, "I do not think I can say that." She said the same thing in the committee, that she had made up this lie to smear a doctor, and she was unable to assure the committee she would not do it again. That's the record we face.

I want to ask the Premier about this particular matter. In an interview in Sudbury the minister, who is a prominent member from the Sudbury area, was confronted with the fact that many of her constituents were unhappy about her conduct. Here's what she said to the press: "I'm the local MP. If they don't want to deal with me, they can see how far they get." I want to ask the Premier if he regards that as an appropriate comment for a minister of the crown of the government of Ontario.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** Perhaps the member would like to show me when and where and how and the context in which this was said. All kinds of allegations are made with respect to statements that are made by various people. The member has made the odd allegation, either sitting in his seat or standing up, many of which have proven to be completely and utterly unfounded. I would only say to the member in response to his question that the minister has clearly apologized for her conduct. It's something which she profoundly regrets, and it's an experience from which I am confident she will have learned.

**Mr Scott:** I take the Premier's observation to amount to this: that if the minister said this, he agrees with me it would be absolutely improper for a minister of the crown to say it. I'll send it over to him, and I've no doubt he'll take it up with her immediately. There's no time to be lost, because what she is reported to have said is: "I'm the local MP. If they don't want to deal with me, they can see how far they get." I understand the Premier will undertake to investigate that.

The problem we have here is not merely a minister who is accident-prone; that's clearly demonstrated. We have a minister who hasn't got the faintest regard for her public responsibilities as a minister of the crown to serve all the people of the province even if she doesn't agree with them, doctors and others. I ask the Premier to undertake to look into this immediately. This situation is not at a plateau; this situation with the minister is getting worse.

**Hon Mr Rae:** In this regard and in a number of other statements the honourable member has made—either from his seat, in which he has become the master heckler of this place, or else standing up—a number of statements about things which are alleged or not alleged to have been said or done in different sets of circumstances, I think the minister has clearly indicated to me, and certainly indicated to everyone I've heard, that she profoundly regrets what's taken place and has apologized to all the parties in question as well as apologized to the House for what has taken place. I think it's an experience from which the minister has clearly learned.

## ONTARIO HYDRO SPENDING

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Minister of Energy regarding Ontario Hydro. I wonder if the minister can explain why the power system operations division at Ontario Hydro is spending \$750,000 on a contract with Business Design Associates of California, why this contract was not tendered and why, with hydro rates of 9% this year, Hydro is justified in spending \$750,000 in consulting fees with an American company without going to tender.

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and acting Minister of Energy):** I don't have the specific details of the contract the leader of the third party is referring to. I'm certainly prepared to look into that and get back to him. Hydro is proceeding with a range of demand management research and development that will, hopefully, help this province move in the direction of a much more efficient, competitive and productive society in the future.

**Mr Harris:** At a time when every independent and objective study of Hydro has suggested that many of these managers should no longer be employed—ie, it's too fat, it's overstaffed, they're overpaid—can you explain why you are spending \$750,000 to send these people away on training courses? Can you explain why—you should know, because we got the information from a freedom of information request—when we asked about the record of tendering, we were told that access could not be granted as this record didn't exist? My office has been advised that the invitation to submit a proposal to Ontario Hydro was done verbally, via a phone call. Is this how you believe Ontario Hydro should be dispensing \$750,000 contracts to a California company for consulting services: via a phone call?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** As with so many things that get raised in this House, I'll look into the matter the leader of the third party has raised and get back to him with the real details. This, like so many other things, is a question that gets couched in a fashion that doesn't warrant a response without a full review of the facts.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Mr Gary Malkowski (York East):** This question is to the Minister of the Environment. The people of my riding of York East take pride in participating in the blue box program, but now residents are concerned about the future of this program in light of claims by Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Inc that it will be unable to provide its share of the costs. Could the honourable minister explain what she is doing to ensure the survival of this waste diversion program?

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** I'm glad to respond to a question from the member for York East whose ongoing interest in and commitment to environmental issues does him a great deal of credit. I want to say to him and the members of this House that they need have no fear: The blue box is here to stay. The blue box has become a symbol of the commitment of the



people of this province to playing their part in reducing waste. There are now nearly three million households that have the facility to recycle their waste, either through the blue box or through a depot. What has been at issue is the question of how it can be financed.

The member makes reference to a non-profit group of businesses that have contributed to the funding. They've contributed the capital costs. The municipalities have had to bear more than their fair share of the operating costs. We think what has to happen is that the people whose waste ends up in the blue box pay more of the cost of the program, so to create what the companies have called for as a level playing field so those who contribute are not at a competitive disadvantage with those who don't contribute is something with which the waste reduction office in my ministry is very much concerned and about which I hope to have some answers very shortly.

1450

**Mr Malkowski:** Given your first response and your reassurances, can the minister tell me when we might expect to see blue box recycling in apartment buildings?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** There was some recent publicity in the city of Toronto to the effect that because of the short-fall in funding collected by OMMRI it would not be able to expand its program into apartment buildings, but I want to say to the member that in many municipalities that expansion has in fact taken place, and is taking place most successfully.

Interjection.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** Guelph, the former minister reminds me, is one where it is there.

In the waste reduction initiatives paper I have been circulating for comment, we have indicated our commitment to make sure that municipalities with a population of more than 5,000 all have recycling facilities available to them, so I am confident that people living in apartment buildings who say, "We want to do our bit," will soon be in a position to do that.

#### MINISTER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** I have a question for the Premier. At one point, Kay Boyle was quoted as saying, "There is only one history of importance, and it is the history of what you once believed in and the history of what you come to believe in." My question to the Premier is, has he come to believe in the fact that it is okay for a member of his cabinet to admit publicly to being a liar and retain the seat in the cabinet?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** Let me respond to the member as clearly as I can by saying that I'm convinced the minister profoundly regrets what took place, she has cooperated fully with the committee with respect to what happened and I think it's an experience from which she has learned and I think it's an experience from which we've all learned.

**Mr Elston:** Having confirmed that, in his belief, it's okay for a cabinet minister to lie and say untrue things about the general citizenry in this province, will the Premier

tell us what we are to think of not only his standards but the conduct of his other cabinet ministers if this minister is to stay attached to that group?

**Hon Mr Rae:** This government will be judged, as will all others, on its overall record and performance and on the ability of our people. I would say to the member for Bruce—

Interjection.

**Hon Mr Rae:** As the member heckles me from his seat, perhaps I can simply point out that this is the member who was asked by reporters on February 17 if there were any doubt in his mind—this is prior to the hearings really commencing—that Miss Martel saw confidential information. He quickly replied: "None." That's the kind of fair, even, balanced approach the members of his caucus took to that inquiry.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** My question is to the Premier. Mr Premier, considering that you wrote your guidelines on conflict of interest and so on for the conduct of your cabinet just after being elected in September 1990, clearly in the past number of months actions have been taken by your ministers that have in fact contravened the written rules. My question, Mr Premier, is this: Can we as an opposition and can the people of Ontario now expect from you a new set of guidelines, a new set of rules your cabinet will operate under? If so, does it mean that if you tell a lie, if you slander a citizen, as long as you regret it, it's all right?

**Hon Mr Rae:** Again, the short answer to that is no.

**Mr Stockwell:** The short answer may well be no, but the long answer should be what we on this side of the House can expect from your cabinet. What do the people of Ontario expect from your cabinet? When are they going to get a new set of guidelines and a new set of rules that allow them to measure you and your government?

The question was, can we expect a new set of written rules from you on the conduct of your ministers? You've now said it's okay to lie and slander as long as you regret it. The question is, what are the new terms of reference? Please outline them.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Mr Speaker, I think I heard at least seven questions in the member's question. I will say directly to the member that this experience has been one from which the minister has learned, as I think the whole House has, with respect to what took place in December, what the committee found and what has happened. I would say to the member that when you asked—and I don't think you're being rhetorical—"What can the public expect from this cabinet?" they can expect a cabinet which does the best it can in difficult circumstances. They can expect a cabinet which will do its very best to serve the people and which, when we make mistakes, Mr Speaker, will admit them and make every effort to correct them.

#### SEATBELTS

**Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay):** My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Mr Minister, Transport Canada's study released national driver safety statistics earlier this week. I was surprised to learn that

Ontario drivers rank fifth overall among the provinces with regard to seatbelt compliance. Would you please share with us today some of the results of this study as they pertain to this province?

**Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and minister responsible for francophone affairs):** Yes, indeed. The province of Ontario is making a significant comeback; we were second-last two years ago. While the province's record isn't one of perfection or excellence, it is one of constant improvement. More motorists are wearing seatbelts than ever before, 11% more, 83% compliance, thanks to the OPP and its education system, thanks to the insurance bureau, thanks to agencies of all sorts, to clubs and organizations. Since 1976, when seatbelt usage was first introduced in the province, fatalities have gone down a full 30% in spite of 2 million more cars on the roads of Ontario. Mr Speaker, I invite you and all members of the House to buckle up, for in Ontario, it is the law.

#### MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** My question as well is to the Premier. I say to the Premier, with all due respect, that the issue in this unseemly matter is not the member for Sudbury East, who ought not to be sitting here as a minister; the issue is you, sir.

The problem the people of Ontario have is that the rules seem to be rewritten every time a matter arises, and there have been several. Months and months ago, at the beginning of your term, the member for Oakwood was involved in a matter before the Ontario Labour Relations Board and was thrown out of your caucus. The member for Welland-Thorold appeared, fully clothed, in a newspaper and was thrown out of cabinet. The member for Ottawa Centre inadvertently blurted out the name of an OHIP patient. She profoundly regretted it and she did the right thing and stepped down. The member for Scarborough West inappropriately wrote to a judge. She offered her resignation, and that was for a moment accepted and then rejected.

If I might, Mr Speaker, this is an important history.

The office staff of the member for Cambridge inappropriately wrote to a judge. His resignation wasn't proffered, but ultimately he was thrown out of cabinet. The member for Fort York and the member for Peterborough lost their cabinet jobs as well. The member for St Andrew-St Patrick had a question arise dealing with a rent review. She did the appropriate thing and offered her resignation, and that was accepted.

I tell the Premier that it is impossible for the people of Ontario to accept the fact that with each new incident, you rewrite the rules.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Will the member place his question, please.

**Mr Sorbara:** I ask the Premier: Will he now tell us that he will abandon the proposal he put before the legislative committee on the administration of justice and put before this House and the people of Ontario clear rules dealing with ministerial conduct, rules which have clear and appropriate and well-articulated sanctions so that he

cannot any further hide behind the fact that "The minister profoundly regretted her actions"?

1500

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I think I would only say to the—

**Mr Sorbara:** Will you bring forward rules, yes or no?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member for York Centre is asking me to answer his question. I will answer the question as directly as I can and say that the examples he has raised I think clearly establish the fact that the standard of conduct is there and that the ministers and others are responding to it. The fundamental fact remains that it's the responsibility of the Premier to decide overall on the membership of cabinet.

I accept the fact that my judgement will be criticized—that also goes with being Premier—and I accept that the member may have different views with respect to issues of the day, but I think the examples the member has given are a clear indication of the willingness of this government and this Premier to take difficult decisions when they have to be taken.

**Mr Sorbara:** The examples I raised show that there is a different set of rules in each of the 10 incidents that have arisen. The Premier, by the way, said he would answer the question as to whether he would put before us a new set of rules with clear sanctions and then he proceeded not to answer the question. We want to know who is enforcing these rules. We want to know whether the Premier is enforcing the rules as they may be in each individual instance or whether the ministers themselves, when they get into trouble, are enforcing the rules.

Will the Premier tell me and this House whether or not at the time of this incident the member for Sudbury East, the now Minister of Northern Development, proffered to you her resignation? Was that resignation considered, or did she refuse to offer her resignation, given her scandalous conduct? Yes or no?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The Premier of this province has a responsibility to deal with the question of the membership of cabinet and I exercise that responsibility, and the short answer is no.

#### MEMBER'S CONDUCT

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** My question is to the Premier. The parliamentary assistant and member for Sudbury admits that she and her constituency office made up certain information and conveyed it to the public in order to defend your policy regarding capping doctors' salaries. The information that was conveyed to the public was clearly wrong, false and besmirched the name of the doctor in the community. Are you prepared to do anything about the conduct of the parliamentary assistant?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** The allegations, again, which the member is making and which have been put forward are, I am told, discussed in the report being tabled this afternoon. I would say to the



honourable member that his characterization of what took place I don't think is one I would fully share.

**Mr Harnick:** I would advise the Premier to read that report, because our counsel independently analysed those facts and discussed the conduct of the parliamentary assistant in conveying this information, which was admitted by the parliamentary assistant and her constituency worker. On that basis, is the Premier going to sit and do nothing about this abuse of the way a constituency office is run?

**Hon Mr Rae:** Again, I hope the member will at least give me the opportunity to read the report, which I gather is being tabled this afternoon, and then perhaps I can respond more effectively.

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton):** As I looked at Hansard last week, on April 9 I saw some of the remarks made by the honourable leader of the third party regarding basement apartments and I wanted to ask the Minister of Housing—first of all, some of the comments that were made I must object to; for instance, that these are artificial quick fixes. We know there is a need for affordable housing. We also know the honourable leader of the third party is concerned about condominiums and single-family dwellings, but what are we going to do for people who need housing now? I ask the minister to reply to this kind of response.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** Like the member for Victoria-Haliburton, I was somewhat puzzled by the florid language used by the leader of the Conservative Party when he spoke about the statement in the throne speech that suggested we were going to make provisions so that people could, anywhere in municipalities, provide extra units within their homes. He made such statements as, "People wouldn't want to give over their homes to strangers, allow strangers, as it were, to invade their homes."

What we are talking about here is the addition of self-contained units. What those units would represent is access, for the first time, by home owners and by people who would like to rent such units, to easily available and legally provided—meeting all the standards required—apartments within homes.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** I would be ashamed to support that concept for the future of this province.

Interjections.

**Mr Drainville:** I would just like to say that some members opposite have said they would be ashamed to talk about basement apartments. I came from a poor family, and I will tell you, Mr Speaker, family life in Ontario is as fine in good basement apartments as it is in the luxury condominiums that they like to represent.

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: When the honourable member for Victoria-Haliburton is referring to something the member for Mississauga South said, I think he should honestly say exactly what she said and not misinterpret what she said,

not just pick the little snippets that he wants. Be honest, stand up and be a man.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member take his seat.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. It would be helpful if the member for Victoria-Haliburton would simply place his question.

**Mr Drainville:** I would be glad to, Mr Speaker. Let me say that the vision we have is of affordable housing and that means—

**The Speaker:** Would the member place his question.

**Mr Drainville:** I would like to ask whether the honourable minister could indicate, in terms of the initiative of the government, what the time line will be to be able to bring in this program so that the people of Ontario will have appropriate and affordable housing in the future.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** I wish I could respond to the member for Victoria-Haliburton and say that this was the answer to our affordable housing needs. It is only a small part of the work we are trying to do within the Ministry of Housing to try to meet the needs which exist around this province among so many families and on the part of so many individuals.

The term "basement apartments," which was used within the throne speech and which was referred to and is scoffed at by members of the Conservative Party opposite, is one that we chose as opposed to the very effete, if I could say so, planning definition of what we are talking about. It is known normally as an "accessory apartment." That means it provides an accessory use to the main use in the building, which of course is the planners' way of looking at it. We hoped to speak to the general public when we said, "basement apartments."

#### MINISTER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** I would like to come back one final time this afternoon to the Premier about what I consider to be the fundamental issue in the Martel affair. I say this respectfully to the Premier, who is a very distinguished parliamentarian and who understands in a way that perhaps a lot of other people don't that the foundation of our system of responsible government is the trust, particularly that ministers hold, in the sovereign's name, to tell the truth, among other things.

John Profumo, for example, was by all accounts a very distinguished—

Interjections.

**Mr Conway:** Mr Speaker, let me finish.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Mr Conway:** John Profumo was by all accounts an extremely distinguished member of the British House of Commons, a member of the Macmillan government. People tend to forget that John Profumo had to leave government because he lied. That's why John Profumo had to withdraw from Mr Macmillan's cabinet, and my point, because this is a fundamental aspect—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Does the member have a question?

1510

**Mr Conway:** This is the core of this question. It's a matter of parliamentary privilege. We now have a minister who has admitted to lying. That is an uncontested fact supported by her testimony. The question remains. Surely in light of the traditions of British responsible parliamentary government and in light of the Premier's own guidelines, the minister ought to have offered her resignation. But not having had that offer, apparently, does the Premier not understand his responsibility as the sole arbiter, as the heir to Macmillan and Walpole and Liverpool—

**The Speaker:** Would the member place his question, please.

**Mr Conway:** —that he has a responsibility and that he must act on that responsibility if the trust and respect of this institution and of his government are going to be maintained?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** My recollection of history is, I suspect, a little less sharp and acute than that of the member opposite, whose knowledge of history is well known. But I would say to the member that from my recollection, the parallel he's trying to create with respect to the Profumo issue is one where, as I recall it, Mr Profumo not only misled the House in direct response to a question that was put to him by another member but also misled his Prime Minister. So I would say to the honourable member that I just don't see the parallel he's trying to draw.

#### PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'd like to refer you, sir, back to a question today by my deputy leader to the Premier, wherein he referred to the admission by the Minister of Northern Development in the committee hearings that she had lied, and that when he recounted the details of that, sir, the House leader for the government shouted out the following words, "Something like you do every day."

Now, when you look in the rules, under section 23(h) or (i), where it says that a member shall not make "allegations against another member" or shall not impute "false or unavowed motives to another member," I would suggest, under that, what the House leader in fact did was to accuse the deputy leader of my party of lying. The deputy leader was questioning the remarks, not making an allegation but repeating the facts that have been outlined in the committee, wherein the minister admitted that she lied and that she took a lie detector test to prove she lied and therefore is an admitted liar. In so saying, the House leader then came back and accused the deputy leader of my party of doing the same thing. In my view he called him a liar and I would like him to apologize.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member take his seat, please. As the member will know, if at any point during the proceedings the Speaker hears a remark which is unparliamentary, the member will be asked to withdraw that remark. If the Speaker does not hear the word that was said, then when it is brought to the attention

of the House our practice is to allow the member involved to have the opportunity, if the member has said what was alleged to have been said, to withdraw the remark. At this moment I offer that opportunity to the government House leader.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** Mr Speaker, I'll be glad to take a look at Hansard. I don't recollect the situation in the same way that the member does.

**The Speaker:** I don't know that we can pursue this usefully any further, but I would draw to members' attention—

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** While I recognize it's a very, very difficult situation and it's difficult to ask members to always restrain themselves, it would be very helpful to the atmosphere of this House if members would try to restrain intemperate language, because what it does is lead to disorder.

**Mr Mahoney:** Further to that, Mr Speaker, I'm not asking on a point of order. I'm not asking the House leader for the government to review Hansard or make a decision on a point of order. I'm asking as the rules call—and I'm sure you'll appreciate that I'm attempting to use the rules as opposed to just flying off with something that is clearly not a point of order, which is done with some regularity here, I'm sure to your frustration—I'm asking you to rule. You claim you did not hear the comments.

If the House leader does not have the decency and the dignity to withdraw the remarks that I'm sure he knows fully well he made, because everyone here heard them, during my deputy leader's question, then I would ask you, sir, to review Hansard to see if indeed Hansard picked it up. If Hansard didn't pick it up, I think we'd better turn up the hearing part of Hansard, because it was extremely clear to everyone on this side of the House. My point of order to you, sir, is that this member has impugned the integrity of my deputy leader by suggesting that he is a liar and that I think he should either withdraw that and apologize or, sir, you should review the incident and not him.

**The Speaker:** To the member for Mississauga West, I am always pleased to review Hansard, my favourite reading. I indeed will on this occasion take a look at Hansard as he has requested.

#### PETITIONS

##### TRANSFER PAYMENTS

**Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands):** I have a petition here signed by 36 people:

"We, the undersigned, members of Yr Ha-Melech Reform Jewish congregation of Kingston, Ontario, respectfully address the following request to the Ontario Legislature:

"While understanding the necessity for government financial cutbacks in order to control the province's financial problems, we ask that the Ontario government review its proposed policy of a 1% increase in transfer payments



across the board. We would like to see an exemption for those community-based organizations which help the weakest members of our society, such as poor children, the elderly and battered women. This action would demonstrate an ongoing commitment to social justice which we have come to expect in Ontario."

#### WOMEN'S CENTRES

**Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora):** I have a petition that reads:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To provide, through the Ministry of Citizenship, core funding for the staffing and operation of women's centres throughout the province of Ontario."

That's signed by some 70 constituents of mine, and I too attach my signature.

#### TRAFFIC SIGNAL

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** I'm pleased to table a petition, signed by approximately 300 concerned residents who live in my riding of Dufferin-Peel, which reads as follows. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas, as regular users of the intersection of Highway 10 and Old Base Line in the town of Caledon, we believe that this portion of Highway 10 has become unacceptably dangerous in terms of safety and human life; and

"Whereas, as regular users of this intersection, we believe that a traffic light is urgently required;

"Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to request the Ministry of Transportation to install a traffic light at this intersection at its earliest convenience in order to rectify a dangerous situation."

I affix my signature in support of this petition.

#### REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

##### STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr Offer from the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly presented the committee's report and requested that it be placed on the Orders and Notices paper for consideration pursuant to standing order 36(b).

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** This report is as a result of our terms of reference of December 19, 1991, which mandated an inquiry into but not limited to an investigation into the disclosure of confidential information emanating from the Ministry of Health, including documentary and viva voce evidence; second, an investigation into the conduct of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on December 5, 1991, and the events leading up to her attendance in Thunder Bay; third, an investigation into the dissemination of information obtained from the Ministry of Health.

This report contains a dissenting opinion with recommendations. I think, Mr Speaker, you will recognize that this type of committee is a difficult task for any member of the Legislature. I believe our committee and the work of the subcommittee established, as best we could in the time

allocated, a fairness to ensure that the recollection of events by many persons would be brought forward.

I would like to take a moment to thank our committee counsel, Patricia Jackson, and all those associated with her, as well as the clerk of our committee, Doug Arnott, and all those who helped out in the support staff. I hope this report will be debated in the near future.

1520

Mr Offer from the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly presented a report on Keith Harfield and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

**Mr Offer:** This is a further report of the legislative committee, and it is one that was unanimously agreed to. If I might indicate the reason for that, I am reading briefly from our conclusions and recommendations:

"Ontario legislative committees are granted, both by standing order and by authority of the Legislative Assembly Act, the power to send for such persons, papers and things as they determine are required within the ambit of their terms of reference. Such authority cannot be carelessly fettered or diminished if committees are to inquire freely into matters referred by the Legislative Assembly. The integrity of parliamentary processes must be safeguarded if we are to preserve respect for the dignity of the Legislature. The standing committee on the Legislative Assembly therefore feels itself obliged to report on the conduct of Keith Harfield as recounted" in our report.

"In reviewing the evidence"—which I will not do of course at this time—"of Keith Harfield's responses to legitimate requests by the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly for his attendance and for production of documents, your committee concludes that the pattern of conduct established is one of deliberate and repeated evasion and delay which demonstrates a lack of respect for the committee and the Legislative Assembly.

"It is your committee's view that the conduct of Keith Harfield constitutes a contempt of the committee, of the warrants of the Speaker and of the Legislative Assembly. In particular, the committee is of the opinion that Keith Harfield has breached sections 46(1)6 and 46(1)7 of the Legislative Assembly Act, RSO 1990, c L.10."

In conclusion, our committee has, after great deliberation, recommended:

"(1) That the House find Keith Harfield in contempt; and

"(2) That the House direct the Speaker to issue a public admonishment to Keith Harfield of Harfield and Associates, management consultants, 143 Applegrove Street, Sudbury, Ontario, reprimanding him for contemptible conduct in response to legitimate requests of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly."

On motion by Mr Offer, the debate was adjourned.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME OF ONTARIO ACT, 1992

Mr Jackson moved first reading of Bill Pr4, An Act respecting the School Sisters of Notre Dame of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

## CORPORATIONS TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI  
SUR L'IMPOSITION DES CORPORATIONS

Ms Wark-Martyn moved first reading of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'imposition des corporations.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue):**

Amendments to the Corporations Tax Act will put into place the proposals of the April 29, 1991, Ontario budget. These include a surtax on the income of certain Canadian-controlled private corporations claiming the small business deduction, an increase in the rate of capital tax for banks and loan and trust companies and the elimination of the premium tax exemption for certain automobile insurance contracts. This bill includes some technical amendments as well as changes to bring the Corporations Tax Act in line with the federal Income Tax Act.

## MINING TAX AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI DE L'IMPÔT  
SUR L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE

Ms Wark-Martyn moved first reading of Bill 12, An Act to amend the Mining Tax Act / Loi modifiant la Loi de l'impôt sur l'exploitation minière.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon Shelley Wark-Martyn (Minister of Revenue):**

These amendments implement the proposal made in the Treasurer's budget of April 29, 1991, to limit the amount of tax exemption for profits earned by mining operators from new mines and the expansion of existing mines. The exemption is limited to \$10 million of profit per mine and applies to profit earned after April 1991. The amendment act will take effect once royal assent is given.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** To accommodate my friend the member for Carleton, I'll call orders 34 and 35.

## WITHDRAWAL OF BILLS 3 AND 4

Mr Sterling moved that the order for second reading of Bill 3, An Act respecting the Carleton Board of Education and Teachers Dispute / Loi concernant le conflit de travail entre le Conseil de l'éducation de Carleton et ses enseignants, and Bill 4, An Act respecting the Ottawa Board of Education and Teachers Dispute / Loi concernant le conflit de travail entre le Conseil de l'éducation d'Ottawa et ses enseignants, be discharged and that the bills be withdrawn.

Motion agreed to.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

**Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton):** Last week, as I listened to the speech from the throne, my thoughts went back to four and a half years ago when there was another throne

speech and another government. I was the neophyte member for Eglinton and, I must say, quite enthusiastic, quite idealistic, perhaps a tad naïve, although I'm not sure I should admit to that. I had the honour of delivering the government response and making the motion to adopt the speech from the throne.

Yesterday I went back to that maiden speech to see whether the fact that that was then and this is now would have changed my thoughts. I'd like to quote one paragraph from my speech made four and a half years ago:

"There will be many speeches made in this House. We will hear much rhetoric over the next four years. But before we get too caught up in our day-to-day routine, let us remind ourselves of why we are here. We are here to speak for others, not just for ourselves. We are here to work for our neighbours and to represent our communities. Most of all, we are here to fulfil the trust of the people, for truly, Mr Speaker, the business of this House is the people's business, for politics is not merely policies; politics is people."

This is an instance where that was then and this is now, but the two merge, because I believe those words are just as true today as we debate this speech from the throne, because trust is what it is all about.

1530

We have to ask ourselves the question, how does a government earn the trust of the people? There are five things I believe a government must do to earn that trust. First, they must be a government of integrity. Second, they must demonstrate competence. Third, they must reflect the attitudes and values of the people they serve. Fourth, they must demonstrate an ability to listen. Finally, they must instil confidence.

I ask myself, does this government measure up? Let's take it one step at a time, beginning with integrity, the most important of the qualifications. The first speech from the throne of the NDP government was full of references to integrity and standards. Alas, the speech from the throne we heard from the NDP government last week was sadly devoid of those precious words. It's no small wonder: The Premier's standards have gone the way of the wind. They have disappeared.

Remember the Premier's big announcement when they were first elected, the one with the trumpets blazing and all the fanfare about this government's integrity and standards? How the people thrilled to hear those words. But do you also remember, some scant months later, the Premier's secret memo to his cabinet ministers, which was later revealed, telling his ministers: "Don't worry about the guidelines. Bob Rae will modify them"? He would modify them so that one size fit all. Let them not worry their pretty little heads about guidelines, standards and integrity.

Got an apartment building you forgot to disclose? No problem. Do you have to divest your holdings if it creates a conflict of interest? No way, not in Bob Rae's Ontario, even if the government did promise it before it was elected. The Premier's standards became a joke.

When the constituency office of the former Solicitor General, the member for Cambridge, sent out letters trying to fix some parking tickets, the Premier's standards were



that it was okay because the minister hadn't actually written the letters himself. Remember the minister's famous line? "I didn't write the letter; I didn't sign the letter; I didn't see the letter." Therefore, the letter didn't exist. What happened to ministerial responsibility? It too fell victim to the Premier's standards. Incident after incident occurred. Interference by cabinet ministers with a quasi-judicial body? No problem. Remember, we've got the Premier's standards.

We don't have time to go into each and every incident where the integrity of this government has been in question, but the latest example cannot be ignored, and that's the situation of the Minister of Northern Development, the member for Sudbury East. It became known as the Martel affair. A minister who is an admitted liar and slanderer remains in the Premier's cabinet today because of the Premier's standards. The *Globe and Mail* headline: "Martel Tells the Truth About Lying." Something just doesn't quite ring right with that statement. The *Hamilton Spectator*: "Should We Believe Shelley's Telling the Truth About Lying?" The *Toronto Star*: "Can We Trust Martel's Claim That It's True She Was Lying?"

Is this the new standard in Bob Rae's Ontario and in the cabinet: lie, slander? Hey, that's okay as long as you tell the truth afterwards. What credibility do this minister and government have when they can allow this to happen?

Eight resignations and firings in one year. I would say very emphatically that there is one exception to this: the former minister responsible for women's issues, the member for Scarborough West, who resigned for health reasons. That is separate from the rest of this issue. But the rest of them? Incompetence, wrongdoing, you name it.

Except, of course, I forgot that there was the member for Welland-Thorold, the former Minister of Financial Institutions, who was fired ostensibly because he appeared fully clothed as the Sunshine Boy in the *Toronto Sun*. But in reality it was because he insisted that the Premier keep a promise he made before being elected. Imagine that. Keep a promise? What a novelty.

We haven't even touched on the backbenchers such as the member for Victoria-Haliburton, who was lauded by the NDP because he defied the law in contempt of a court order. Of course he was only following the guide of his Premier, who did the same thing but miraculously was not charged. The punishment of the member for Victoria-Haliburton: He was appointed Chair of the prestigious select committee on Confederation.

Compare that to the treatment of the member for Lincoln, who dared in this government to stand up and vote against a government bill because his constituents wanted him to. His reward: He was fired as Chair of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. That, too, is Bob Rae's Ontario.

The member for Oakwood, the member for Downsview: the list goes on and on, members of the NDP tainted by scandal. Welcome to Bob Rae's standards and welcome to Bob Rae's Ontario.

The second ingredient I believe any government has to have if it is to earn the trust of the people is competence. I have never seen such a level of incompetence by any gov-

ernment in this country. Granted, many members of this government ran never expecting to win. A level of competence was never expected nor indeed required. Granted, it was a new government. However, there's only so much patience for these lines; there's only so much people are willing to hear.

In 1985 the Peterson government was new as well. The member for St George-St David, the member for Wilson Heights, the member for York Centre and the member for Oriole are just a few of the members who, the first day they were elected, were in cabinet. A new government, a very similar situation; but at no time did anyone question the competence of these people. So when the government makes excuses such as "New members, new government," they just don't wash.

This NDP government is the one that can't shoot straight. The most recent example was an announcement by the Minister of Municipal Affairs last week. It related to the streamlining of the planning process, something the Liberal government had approved of and was instituting. It was something everybody felt was a good idea. But what does this government do? It takes a good idea and then appoints Dale Martin as the facilitator to make it happen—Dale Martin, the only person in the history of the Ontario Municipal Board actually fined for a vexatious and frivolous action that the OMB said was purely politically motivated. They put this person as a facilitator to work with the OMB to streamline the process? Get real.

Nepotism and patronage are the order of the day. I think the member for Etobicoke West had the best line when he said, "The NDP government is so deep in the trough they need a snorkel to breathe." Today he amended that. He said, "They're so deep in the trough they need scuba-diving equipment." Decisions and appointments must be based on ability and competence, not one's party allegiance.

The other issue the NDP loves to bring up is that this government appointed 11 women to cabinet. As a woman and a feminist, this makes me gag. It is tokenism of the worst kind. The qualifications for cabinet should be ability and competence; gender is not the primary prerequisite. But this is not true in the Premier's cabinet. I wish I could say that those 11 women should all be there. Sadly, I cannot. As a woman and a feminist, I very much resent that they would use this as a political football and put in unqualified and incompetent people just because they are women.

1540

The third criterion I think any government must meet if it is to win the respect and trust of the people is that it must reflect the attitudes and values of the people it serves. The NDP has an interesting attitude. It says that everybody is the same and everybody is equal. I'd like to take issue with that, because it is not true. Every individual has different abilities. Every individual has different talents. To say we are all the same and all equal is not fair.

What we have to do is create equal opportunity, which is a different thing. It is to create that level playing field so that everybody has the same opportunity. Then people's abilities and their competence can shine. But we cannot



create this Utopia by bringing down people instead of raising up people. I do not like to see the great levelling that is happening in our society.

That's not my Ontario and that's not the Ontario I want for my children. My Ontario provides an incentive to excel. In my Ontario, mediocre is not good enough. In my Ontario, people are to try their very best. My Ontario is competitive. In my Ontario, individual rights are paramount, not what is politically correct. In my Ontario, there is no division between "us" and "them." In my Ontario we will work together.

In my Ontario the best person gets the job, and I say this as a very strong supporter of both pay equity and employment equity. I'm very proud of the record of the previous Liberal government when it comes to these issues. The number of women and visible minorities appointed by the Peterson government is truly impressive, but you mustn't forget that what we did was take as the first and foremost criteria ability and competence. If two people were of an equal ability and competence, then we looked at things such as gender discrimination and that they might be a visible minority or might have to bear a handicap, but the primary focus must always be the best person for the job and to create that level playing field so that, regardless of handicap, gender or colour, you have an opportunity to get that job. That's what the message should be.

The fourth criterion for earning the trust of the people is that a government must demonstrate an ability to listen. I know members of the government will say very quickly: "Ah, but we do. We consult." There is a major difference in my mind between this government's version of consultation and listening. To listen you need to hear and you need to heed, but if a government is so encased in rigid ideology that it cannot listen and hear and heed, then it does not speak well for our government or our system. When a government feels that the main purpose of consultation is to get information to feed its own agenda, that is not listening to the people.

When I sat as a member on the standing committee on general government, both on Bill 4, which was the rent freeze, and on the debate on child care and private sector child care, I suddenly got a feeling that this was *déjà vu*. I was hearing the same message from the witnesses even though there were two very different issues. The government's response was the same on the two issues. I don't know how to describe this. It's almost as if the members of the government were on a different wavelength. They really thought they were listening, but they didn't hear what was being said.

One of the witnesses in the child care debate, Carolyn Koff, gave me a quote from Jerry Lewis which I think was very apropos: "For those who do not understand, no explanation will suffice; for those who do understand, no explanation is necessary." The NDP doesn't understand and doesn't want to understand because its ideology just gets in the way.

The final ingredient, and a very important one, in earning the trust of the people to govern is that any government must instil confidence. But how can you feel confident in a

government that you do not trust? How do you feel confident in a government that lacks standards and integrity? How do you feel confident in a government that lacks vision, a government that is incompetent, a government that doesn't share your attitudes, your values, your priorities, your hopes and your dreams, a government that doesn't listen?

This government has not earned the trust of the people, has not earned the respect of the people and has not earned the confidence of the people, but the government is very quick to blame somebody else. It is the fault of the federal government, the fault of the recession, the fault of business.

Members of this government, you must look in your own hearts, because you have failed the test put before you, the test of integrity, competence and sensitivity to the values of this great province.

The words in this throne speech sound good, but they simply don't match the music. As Shakespeare once said, it is much sound and fury, signifying nothing. This is not my vision for Ontario and this is not the Ontario I dream of for my children.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** I would just like to remind the House that there are certain traditions in the House, and we should always be careful when we address another member. We don't address him by his first name. He is the member for York South. It is not "Bob Rae's government." He is the Premier of Ontario. This is a tradition, and the reason for this is very simple—it helps to neutralize the debate. It does not become personalized. We address the office; we don't address the individual. So if you see me standing up and reminding you all the time, I do it for one purpose, to keep order in the House.

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the speech. The member did not have sufficient time, I know, to mention a specific subject that is extremely important in Ontario, that is, the issue of bingo for Junior B, Junior C and Junior D hockey teams. This is something the member has mentioned to me on a number of occasions, her concern about many communities in the province that will be denied the opportunity to have these teams, whether it is in hockey, baseball, fastball, soccer or any other particular grouping which is of the junior age.

Across the province at this time, the main source of funds for these people remains a properly licensed, properly run bingo. No one is asking for any special consideration in terms of the way the bingo is operated. Everyone must operate within the law. What this government does not seem to understand is that in community upon community in Ontario, there is a danger that amateur teams will be disappearing because they do not have the opportunity to secure funds from a main source, which requires work on the part of that organization; that is, to operate a legitimate bingo in Ontario.

I know the member would want to implore the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations to abandon this apparent vendetta against junior sports teams across Ontario, the removal of their bingo licence, the removal of



their opportunity to carry on, to provide an opportunity for young people to participate in a healthy sport and to provide a chance for sports and athletics spectators in Ontario to enjoy something that is near and dear to their hearts.

The member who has spoken, the member for Eglinton, has this strong concern and I know if she'd had more time in her speech, she would have addressed it in some detail.

**Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph):** I am responding to the member for Eglinton. Let me describe a phone call I had from a constituent of mine, Mrs Josephine Crieghton, a woman in her late 80s. Mrs Crieghton called my constituency office a few days ago just to say that it's time the politicians had a vision. This is what she said:

"The lack of ideas that politicians and governments have had in the past have left our country dying. It's nice to see a change, to have a thinking government, a government that wants to take care of the people with new ideas."

She thinks past governments have left a calamity. She wants politicians to start working together, and if they can't, then the Premier should start to fight fire with fire. Again, she said, "I don't think the Premier has brought to light what a mess was made in the last 10 years."

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The message I'm hearing is that it's time to stand up and fight back for our policies, to build a fair and well-rounded province, not to bend to what big business or the big people want us to do.

I've also had calls from small businesses that are excited there are finally going to be initiatives for small businesses. I've heard from working people applauding our initiatives in skills development and industrial strategy and also to get this province working again, because there are people, and some of them are in this House, who simply cannot accept the fact that we are on this side of the House. They simply cannot accept the fact of who we are. And who are we? We're factory workers, teachers, social workers and activists, and we represent the people whose voices have never been heard before by this government. We are more responsive and more representative of the people of Ontario than any other previous government.

We've all heard the opposition and the third party in this House say the New Democrats are goodhearted but they can't mind the store. That's a fallacy that will never be repeated again. This party finally is the government that is listening to the people and speaking for the people.

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** I listened quite attentively to the member for Eglinton, and that is the reason I tried to move as close to her seat as possible so I could catch all the nuances possible. That's why of course I had to go back to my own seat at this point.

The main message the member for Eglinton is making to this House today is one of standards. When this government came to power, the leader, the present Premier, the member for York South, said: "Yes, we're going to start to have a different standard for the Legislature, for our members, especially for cabinet ministers. These standards are going to be tough and they're going to be righteous and no one is going to shake them loose." The reason he said that

is quite simple. He wanted to make sure that he would separate himself from all the other previous premiers this illustrious province obviously has had.

The point is simply this: While these standards have been wildly gyrating all over the place, and some members had to take the wrath of the Premier—based on what standards? On his personal whim, or on what was written down, what was specifically identified as the standards for cabinet ministers?

What we have been left with today and what the member for Eglinton has said to us is simply this: No one is able in Ontario at this time to identify what these standards are. That's the point I'm trying to make.

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I do want to take two minutes to respond to the comments made by the member for Eglinton and also the member for St Catharines, because he mentioned that perhaps the member for Eglinton wanted to mention in her remarks the question about gambling in Ontario and casino gambling in particular. I want to echo those comments that were made, because in my area of the province there is a great deal of concern by charities that in the government's desperate attempt to find more cash, we find the government is thinking of legalizing casino gambling.

I want to mention on behalf of farmers in my area, many of whom are suffering greatly, not only in this recession but they have been suffering for a great many years, that many of them just aren't making ends meet whatsoever and some of my farmers are exclusively providing services to the horse racing industry. We know that industry creates some 50,000 jobs in this province and we know it generates over \$2 billion worth of revenue and economic activity in this province. I'm very much worried those 50,000 jobs in the horse racing industry will be in jeopardy, all because this government is void of ideas and can't think of anything more creative to do than bring in legalized casino gambling.

I have had discussions with constituents in the town of Wasaga Beach. Wasaga Beach is the tourism mecca of Ontario. We have some 1.6 million visitors each summer to the beach. Some of them might be in favour of casino gambling if we could be assured we would get a licence for Wasaga Beach, but the government's proposal today indicates six areas of the province where these casinos might go, not mentioning at all my area of the province. I tell the constituents there that unless we had an assurance from the government that we would receive a licence for casinos, we will continue to be at a disadvantage vis-à-vis Toronto where the casinos are likely going to go.

**Ms Poole:** The member for St Catharines was quite right when he said we've had extensive and lengthy conversations about bingo and the impact on people in this province and minor league hockey. He said, in effect, that this government is not listening to the people. That was one of the points I was making in my speech. It is very important. This may not seem like a big issue to many of the members of the NDP opposite, but it is a very important issue in many small communities across the province. I would certainly ask the government to revisit that issue.



Second, we heard from the member for Guelph and I thank him for bringing that letter to our attention. It is nice to know his that mother is doing well and that she's writing to him on a regular basis and really approves of what this government is doing.

The letter was somewhat elusive on one thing: It referred to factory workers, union workers and teachers who had never been represented by government before. I think it's tremendously arrogant to believe that this NDP government speaks for every factory worker, union worker and teacher in this province. Those people are independent and individually minded people and they will choose their own party. It will not be foisted on them.

They tend to forget things such as the recent Environments survey which asked about the Ontario labour relations amendments the government was proposing. Thirty per cent of the union workers polled were opposed to them, and these are the people they say they speak for. It comes down to integrity, standards and a government that listens.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** I wish I could say at the outset that it is a pleasure to have this opportunity to respond to the throne speech. It is, however, not a pleasure. In fact it's an obligation and an opportunity, but I would rather that this throne speech from the outset was more productive to the future of this province.

This NDP government's second speech from the throne was two-faced like a Greek drama mask, half comic and half tragic. There were happy words like, "Doing our part to build a stronger economy is the first priority of this government." And another quote, "Our investment strategy starts with the conviction that a strong economy depends on a flourishing business sector."

It sounded like the NDP government has finally recognized that economic renewal is the primary concern of the people of Ontario and cannot be accomplished without a healthy private sector.

But then came the tragedy, the government's statement that its legislation to reform the Labour Relations Act will be brought forward this session. In the throne speech the government tried to play down its contentious plans for labour law reform, mentioning them briefly towards the end of the speech. However, a government document that was leaked in February identified labour reform, not economic renewal, as the government's number one priority.

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What would we do without these leaked cabinet documents that give us the true agenda of this government? In this document, their priorities, following their number one priority of labour law reform, were pay equity amendments and the government's labour-sponsored venture capital legislation.

Which side of the government's mask are we to believe: the one that tells us the economy is the government's number one priority or the one that says a labour-driven agenda is their number one priority, despite the fact that many of the measures in their labour-driven agenda would impede the economic recovery which is vital to the future of Ontario?

Since an internal document has identified labour law reform as the NDP's top priority, I want to discuss my concerns with the measures proposed in the government's white paper. These proposals in the white paper will cost our province 295,000 jobs and \$8.8 billion in forgone investment.

**Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology):** Who says so? Where's the research for that?

**Mrs Marland:** The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology has just interjected with the question, "Who says so?" This minister knows there is a study that was sponsored and paid for by the More Jobs Coalition and that was done by Ernst and Young. If this minister and his staff have not yet read that study, I would recommend it to them as important reading. I would suggest that Ernst and Young have no axe to grind. They have a very high professional reputation. When they study something, they're not studying it from the government's point of view, business's point of view or an opposition political party's point of view. They study the facts. Based on those facts, Ernst and Young have said that \$8.8 billion will be the cost, plus 295,000 jobs. I think those figures speak for themselves.

The minister who of all ministers should be concerned about it happens to be the only minister in the House at this moment. But he is the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, and I'm sure he must be very concerned about the future direction of this province's industry, trade and technology with the onset of the proposed labour law reforms to which I am addressing my comments.

If you wonder why the proposals would result—

**Hon Mr Philip:** Brian Mulroney said I brought \$2.5 million worth of work to Ontario yesterday.

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Speaker, I think we do have procedures in this House that actually do not permit interjections. I think that if the minister has a statement to make, he could get up during ministerial statements and make it rather than yap away interjecting in my presentation at this point. I would appreciate your ruling the House in order. Thank you.

If you wonder why the proposals would result in such a huge loss of jobs and investment, consider what is being proposed: a law to prevent companies from hiring or transferring people to perform the functions of striking employees. The law would forbid union members from crossing their own picket line. It would also allow the unionization of supervisors and professionals. Therefore companies could be and would be paralysed during a strike. Many companies that are small or in fragile economic health would be unable to survive and provide employment if they could not bring in replacement workers during a strike.

The NDP government likes to argue that Quebec already has an anti-scab law in place and hasn't suffered the catastrophic results predicted by Ontario's business community. However, the government chooses to ignore the fact that many Quebec companies reacted to Quebec's law by setting up branch plants either across state lines in Vermont or



across provincial lines in Ontario. During a strike, these branch plants do the essential work of the Quebec plants. Therefore companies that would otherwise have kept their operations in Quebec are sending jobs outside the province. Quebec has lost jobs because of its anti-scab law.

Nor have Quebecers gained other advantages from the province's anti-scab law. From 1978, when the law was enacted, until 1990, Quebec had more strikes than Ontario in all years except 1985 and 1990. If one looks at person-days lost to strikes and lockouts, one might expect Quebec, with its anti-scab law, to have lost fewer days to strikes than Ontario. However, in total Quebec has lost 802,000 more person-days to strikes than Ontario since 1978. This figure takes on added significance when we consider that Quebec has a smaller workforce than Ontario.

Looking at other measures of economic and employee wellbeing, Ontario has consistently outperformed Quebec. For example, Ontario workers have enjoyed higher wage increases and levels of employment than Quebec workers. Clearly Quebec workers are no better off for having an anti-scab law. Why then would we introduce a similar law in Ontario?

Another of the NDP's favourite arguments is that each of the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act already exist in some other jurisdiction in Canada. Again, the NDP fails to mention that not one of these other jurisdictions has all the measures this socialist government wants to introduce. If the proposals in the white paper do become law, the balance that Ontario now enjoys between the rights of business and the rights of labour will be heavily tilted towards labour.

There are a few other proposals in the white paper that I want to comment on. One is the plan to reduce the level of support required for unionization, based on membership cards, from 55% to an absolute majority of 50% plus one worker. At this level of support based on signed union cards, the certification project would not even be subject to a vote, the fundamental process of democracy.

I think a lot of people are not aware of that fact. There would not be a vote. If you have a signed union card, that is your vote. You do not have access to a vote beyond being a member of that union. Nor would there be a cooling-off period in which someone who signed a card under the pressure of an extremely aggressive canvasser would have a chance to reconsider whether he or she really wanted to join the union.

The NDP plans to remove the right that workers now have to petition the Ontario Labour Relations Board for decertification. That is a blatant one-way street. These people say they are protecting workers and they're always for the workers, and this must be right and this must be wrong but everything is for the workers—

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** Only unionized.

**Mrs Marland:** —only unionized workers, and then they are removing a right that exists today in Ontario for unionized workers. What an irony.

1610

My colleague the member for Waterloo North has introduced a private member's bill that would require confiden-

tial votes in all cases of certification, ratification of agreements and decisions to strike. My party believes that only through this confidential vote process will the rights of workers be respected.

We are also concerned that the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act will give the unions greater rights but not greater responsibilities. For instance, there will be no requirement for unions to give prospective members information regarding dues, disciplinary measures, seniority and the union's constitution. "Here we are. Come along, join the union. We won't tell you anything about your rights. We won't tell you anything about the union. We won't tell you what you might be risking." This is so regressive for workers in this province.

Another possible change discussed in the white paper is to require a company to provide a list of its employees' names and addresses to a union that is attempting to certify the employees of that company.

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** What book are you reading out of?

**Mrs Marland:** I say to the member of the government opposite who asked which book I am reading from, that is a shameful question, because if these members opposite, who will be sitting in this House voting 100% in favour of these labour law reforms, do not even yet know what is being proposed and do not even yet know what is being discussed, they would not be asking the question in the House this afternoon, what book am I reading from?

You're the people who will carry this legislation; you are the members in this House who have a majority. You control the future of workers in this province, and I say to each one of you, if you don't know what it is that your socialist government is proposing, it is shameful.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Address the Chair, please.

**Mrs Marland:** I am addressing the Chair, and I say to you, Mr Speaker, that my concern is that there is this possible change that's been discussed in the white paper where a union member can require, not ask, a company to give the names and addresses of its employees so they can be harassed to join a union. This would clearly be an infringement of the workers' right to privacy and could even put some employees at risk. I am sure that most women who live alone would not want their names and addresses given out for the purpose of a union membership drive.

I could say a great deal more about the proposals for labour law reform, but already it is clear that Ontario cannot afford and does not need the proposed reforms, which will only lead to a dangerous polarization of business and labour. The NDP government would do us all a great favour by immediately announcing that it will not proceed with the proposed changes.

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** They are laughing. Can you imagine?

**Mrs Marland:** Mr Speaker, I know you hear in this House the same interjections and comments that I do, and for the record I will say there is laughter from the members of the government at my last comment where I suggested they not proceed with these proposed changes. All of this will be on the record when we come to the next election.



All of this will be the reason that most of those members will not be in their seats following the next election.

I would like to quote from two of the letters I have received from my community regarding the labour law reform proposals, two of over 600 letters and telephone calls I have received on this subject. I have never received such a response on any subject. One of the letters is from David Gordon, who is the executive director of the Mississauga Board of Trade, and he writes:

"Should these proposals become law, we would see serious erosion in the present balance between employer, employee and union rights. Legislation of this kind, which is so blatantly union-biased, sends all the wrong messages to those persons who look to Ontario as the place to do business in Canada."

I have also received a resolution from the city of Mississauga which advised the Minister of Labour of the Mississauga council's grave concerns "that the recommended changes would negatively affect both management rights in labour relations and the strength and viability of business and industry in the province." That is a resolution from the eighth largest municipality in Canada, almost 500,000 people.

In the seven years I have been a member of provincial Parliament there have been few issues that have aroused as much concern in my constituency as the proposals for labour law reform. In recent weeks I have received close to 600 letters and phone calls, as I mentioned a few moments ago, from residents and businesses in my community. It is obvious people do realize that labour law reform is not just a labour versus business issue. The proposed changes will affect all of us. I think that is the very important point this government is forgetting. With their blinkers on and their myopic view of the future of this province, all they are concerned about are their union friends; they are not concerned about the taxpayers and the consumers as a whole in this province today.

Turning to other concerns, I am gravely concerned about this government's knee-jerk reaction every time it has to deal with an economic problem, to blame it all on the federal government. In fact, before we had heard one word of the throne speech about how the NDP government would address Ontario's economic woes, the government had renewed its litany of complaints against Ottawa. We also had another round of this immature whining towards the end of the throne speech.

The NDP's fed-bashing habit has become an addiction which, on two other recent occasions, has dismayed not only Ontarians but Canadians from coast to coast. One was an attack against the federal government which the Premier launched last month at the first ministers' conference and which ended up dominating that conference. The other was the eyebrow-raising speech that the Premier delivered at Queen's University, in which he questioned the federal tradition of equalization which has helped to reduce regional disparities between Canada's richer and poorer provinces.

1620

I would like to share my concerns regarding this government's attack on federal transfer payment policies. First, at this critical time of constitutional negotiation, the

open sniping by the Premier and the Treasurer at the federal government is not only petty but dangerous.

Second, why should Ontario feel entitled to receive transfers from Ottawa that will drive the whole country deeper and deeper into debt? After all, much of the federal government's serious debt problem comes as a result of transfers to pay for irresponsible spending increases by the previous Liberal government of Ontario, which from 1985 to 1990 spent taxpayers' money like there was no tomorrow.

Before the Premier and the Treasurer complain to Ottawa they should remember that between 1984-85 and 1992-93 federal transfers to Ontario for health, education, welfare and social assistance have increased at an annual rate of 6.2%, compared to the average annual growth rate of 4.9% for the rest of Canada. This is the NDP government implying that Ottawa is spending too many of the tax dollars it receives from Ontario on the poorer provinces. What an irony: 4.9% for the rest of Canada and 6.2% for Ontario.

We are hurting badly in Ontario, but even with our high unemployment rate of 10.5% last month we are much better off than provinces like Newfoundland, whose unemployment rate for March was 20.3%. Bob Rae is questioning the fiscal framework that binds this nation together.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. I mentioned just a minute ago to refer to the members either by their ridings or to Bob Rae as the Premier of Ontario, please.

**Mrs Marland:** I apologize, Mr Speaker. You're absolutely correct.

The Premier is questioning the fiscal framework that binds this nation together. Ironically, he is questioning the principles of equity and the sharing of wealth which are the bases for federal equalization payments.

Canada cannot afford the Premier's fed-bashing addiction. When the clock is ticking down on the future of our country, the Premier must not waste precious time on this habit, which has poisoned constitutional talks. Canada deserves better from Ontario and Ontario deserves better from our Premier.

As I said a few minutes ago, it was only after the NDP government's latest round of outrage against the federal government that we heard a few words about the NDP government's industrial strategy in the throne speech. This strategy leaves much to be desired. The strategy includes two measures that will require a large amount of government spending: an infrastructure renewal program and new funds to assist in the development of made-in-Ontario products as well as promote Ontario's success stories around the world.

When provincial revenues are strained to the limit and Ontario will have a record-setting deficit in the upcoming budget, there is no room for an industrial strategy based on government spending and subsidies. Such a strategy requires either a larger deficit or higher taxes. Higher taxes will stifle economic recovery, while a larger deficit will unfairly shift the responsibility for our economic problems on to the shoulders of future generations.

A provincial industrial strategy should have consisted of concrete measures to restore business confidence, attract investment and improve the climate for increased



competitiveness, recognizing that the private sector, not the public sector, is the engine of growth for our economy. Instead, as I said earlier, the government will proceed with labour law reforms and other labour-driven measures that will drive away investment. Instead, the government plans to do the investing itself through two measures: a public sector pension-based investment fund, to be called the Ontario investment fund, which would consist of voluntary investments by Ontario pension plans in the Ontario economy, and worker ownership legislation, which would give tax credits to unions and employees when they buy a stake in their companies.

We do not yet know the details of how the Ontario investment fund would work. I was relieved to hear the word "voluntary" in the throne speech. Even so, I am receiving letters from public servants who are concerned that their pension funds will be endangered by participation in the Ontario investment fund and they will have no say whether their pensions will be invested in the fund. There is a widespread lack of trust in this socialist government's ability to manage anybody's money.

What puzzles me, though, is that the NDP government thinks it can offer something which is not already available through the private sector. As many experts have pointed out, the fund is not needed to generate capital. There is no shortage of capital, only a shortage of good investments. This shortage of lucrative investments will only increase if the government proceeds with new corporate taxes and its proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act. As well, if the government has to guarantee the success of the Ontario investment fund, this would amount to a subsidy, which could invite retaliatory trade action.

As for the worker ownership plan, I believe it is irresponsible for the government to encourage workers to invest in failing companies. Take the case of Algoma Steel, where workers have purchased a share in a company and that company lost \$190 million last year and faces dismal markets for its products. What future can there be for that company?

Having touched on my main concerns about the government's industrial strategy, or lack of it, I would like to discuss several issues in the area of municipal affairs and housing.

On the surface, the government's statement that "Municipalities will be given increased flexibility to borrow and invest" sounds positive, but why should the provincial government want municipalities to put themselves in the same miserable fiscal position as the province, with a ballooning deficit whose interest charges divert money from other badly needed areas? I'm afraid this throne speech statement is a veiled threat that municipalities will need more options to borrow because the province plans to offload the costs of more programs on to the municipalities.

The government's promise to commit new resources to the unacceptable backlog at the Ontario Municipal Board also sounds positive, but I am sceptical as to whether the goal will be accomplished when I look at what has happened to the government's review of the backlog at the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

1630

Last September we had an announcement by the Minister of Citizenship about a strategy to resolve the backlog of cases at the Ontario Human Rights Commission and to strengthen the commission's ability to manage cases effectively. Then in December the minister, not to be embarrassed on International Human Rights Day, announced plans for a review of the Ontario Human Rights Code. Three months later we heard that the task force has until the end of June to make recommendations about how to reduce the backlog. In the meantime, more and more cases are piling up. Are we going to have the same circuitous route, an all talk, no action solution to the Ontario Municipal Board backlog?

Moving to housing issues, I am pleased the government says it will finally introduce the long-awaited revisions to the Condominium Act. I have heard from many condominium owners over my seven years in this House, including the Fairways Condominium Corp in my riding, about costly legal problems that could have been avoided had the act been revised sooner. In the fall of 1989, when the Liberals were in power, I was promised by the officials in charge of the Condominium Act review for the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations that the bill was almost ready. Now, almost three years later, we will finally see the legislation. Across Ontario, condominium owners who have been victims of the outdated Condominium Act want to know why it took the NDP government so long to bring the bill forward.

While I am pleased we will proceed with the Condominium Act revisions, I am concerned with the statement that the government "will revise the Planning Act to increase the supply of basement apartments throughout the province, an inexpensive way to increase affordable housing and create jobs in the home renovation industry."

As the Progressive Conservative spokesperson for Housing and as a member of a constituency that has serious problems with rooming houses, I have heard of many problems resulting from housing intensification and the landlord-tenant law.

For instance, we need right-of-entry legislation to control problems that may arise from conversions, such as renovations that do not meet Ontario Building Code standards. The proposed changes to the Building Code Act will provide right of entry in the case of buildings that pose an immediate danger to the health and safety of any persons, while Bill 121 will give inspectors power of entry to determine whether a landlord has complied with prescribed maintenance standards. However, there are no changes planned to help bylaw officers to enforce noise, parking and land use laws. These right-of-entry issues are a major concern to the municipal governments of Mississauga and the region of Peel.

We also must recognize that a dwelling with an accessory apartment should not generate the same tax assessment as a dwelling with a finished and unrented basement. At present, unless the unit increases the market value of a property by more than \$5,000, which is not the case with many properties, the assessed value of the building does not increase. In effect, property taxpayers subsidize municipal



and educational services for residents of many accessory apartments. We need an amendment to the Assessment Act to allow municipalities and school boards to receive additional tax revenue for these units.

Turning to landlord and tenant matters, I do not see how all measures in the Landlord and Tenant Act could apply to home owners who share their homes with tenants. Consider the following examples.

What if a tenant tells a non-smoking home owner that he does not smoke when in fact he is a smoker? Air exchanges freely between a basement apartment and the rest of the home. Why should a home owner have to share his home with a person whose habit endangers the health of the home owner and his or her family? Yet it would be extremely difficult for the home owner to force the smoking tenant to leave.

As a second example, what if a growing family decides it needs its basement space to accommodate new children or aging parents but the tenant refuses to leave? Despite the fact that landlords have the right to take possession of a rental unit for their own use if they give the tenant due notice, should a tenant refuse to leave and the matter goes to court, it could be months, even years, before the family could repossess its basement.

Third, what if a family purchases a home with a basement apartment, counting on the rent from that apartment to pay the mortgage and the tenant does not pay his or her rent? Again, it can take many months to evict a tenant for non-payment of rent. That could amount to enough income for the home owner to lose his or her home.

When the government amends the Planning Act to facilitate the building of basement apartments, it must also consider the changes that would be required to related legislation in order to address the problems I have outlined.

Moreover, the creation of more basement apartments is not the solution for more affordable housing. I would like to emphasize that the vision of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party for affordable housing and accommodation for people in Ontario is not basement apartments.

**Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview):** You're too good for basement apartments.

**Mrs Marland:** We have a greater vision for the future of this province than solving a problem by saying, "Let's put people in basement apartments."

**Mr Mammoliti:** Would you live in a basement apartment, I wonder, if you had to? You're well off. You don't have to live in one.

**Mrs Marland:** Moreover, the creation of basement apartments will never be the vision of this party. While basement apartments do fulfil a housing need, almost every tenant, I say to that member who is interjecting, aspires to something more than a basement apartment. If the government really wanted to create affordable housing, it would not have introduced Bill 4 and Bill 121. This government does not care about tenants. It does not care about people who cannot afford, under its rules and regulations, under its economic strategy, to move into their own homes. It simply thinks the solution is basement apartments.

No one in his or her right mind wants to be a landlord now, with the result that the only new affordable housing being built is non-profit housing, which is heavily subsidized by the government. By 1995 the NDP government will be spending over \$1 billion a year to subsidize just 115,000 units of housing. That works out to an average subsidy of more than \$725 per month per unit. What a ridiculous amount: a subsidy, not the rent, of \$725 a month. Instead of subsidizing all non-profit units, the government should introduce a shelter subsidy program that would give direct aid to needy tenants and allow them to choose the shelter of their choice.

1640

A shelter subsidy program would help far more people with the same amount of money compared to the non-profit housing programs. The most recent study available found that if we subsidized families which spend more than 25% of their income on rent by covering 100% of the gap between affordability and the cost of shelter, 250,000 Ontario families would be eligible for assistance. The annual cost of the program would be \$410 million, with an average monthly cost of just \$137 for each assisted household. This is a simple model; other factors will add to the costs. However, even if shelter subsidies were combined with rent decontrol, the cost of the program would be under \$600 million a year. Compare that with \$1 billion a year and a monthly subsidy of \$725 per unit for non-profit housing.

Other major benefits of a shelter subsidy program include the creation of construction jobs and an increase in the supply of affordable rental housing. If, as the throne speech said, the NDP government wants to increase the supply of basement apartments to create jobs in the home renovation industry, it should take steps to improve the business climate in Ontario instead of pressing ahead with unnecessary changes such as labour law reforms which will result in lost jobs. If people don't have jobs, they don't have the money to renovate their homes.

At this point I will turn to the government statement that it will increase the child care spaces that it will make available to working women. I'm really curious as to how the government plans to accomplish this objective when it is in the process of eliminating private child care centres. What can be the logic of putting the private centres out of business when there is a crying need for more day care spaces yet the cash-starved government cannot afford to provide them?

Across Ontario 30,000 children are cared for in private centres, which comprise about one third of all the licensed day care centres in Ontario. In the region of Peel, where my riding is located, the private centres provide 41% of the day care spaces. They are therefore a vital component in our child care system. However, the NDP government is aiming to eliminate private centres altogether. It is doing this insidiously by creating a climate in which the private centres cannot compete with the non-profit centres.

The NDP government has introduced a series of measures which reward non-profit centres and punish private centres. It has given \$2,000 per year, retroactive to January 1991, as a wage enhancement to the workers at



non-profit centres only. This program is costing the taxpayers of Ontario \$30 million. Private centres that cannot provide the same salary increase are losing staff to the non-profit centres. The region of Peel has recommended that the Minister of Community and Social Services reconsider her decision to flow these funds to only the non-profit child sector.

In another blow to private day care centres the NDP government has decided that private centres will receive no capital or startup funding and no grants for new spaces. The grants for existing private spaces are already 50% less than for non-profit spaces, even though the private spaces provide the same licensed and strictly controlled child care. The grants to private centres are likely to decrease even further.

In addition, the NDP government has ordered local municipalities to direct children who receive child care subsidies to non-profit facilities only from now on. Parents of subsidized children will no longer be able to choose the centre to which their children are sent. Municipalities are being required to discriminate against taxpaying businesses in their communities. The government has also announced plans to spend \$75 million on incentives for private centres to convert to non-profit status. Yet this same \$75 million, if spent on subsidies, would immediately put all 12,000 children on the waiting list for subsidized spaces into day care.

In a report on the NDP's day care policy the region of Peel has written: "For-profit operators have functioned in Peel since the early 1960s. We have purchased service from centres since 1974 and we have appreciated the quality of care provided by the majority of operators. It should be noted that the majority of for-profit centres are considered to be small business operations owned and operated mainly by women and/or families. These are the people whose years of work is jeopardized by the provincial government's new funding trend. At a time when governments are under extreme financial pressure it seems illogical to put a system which employs approximately 6,500 employees, mainly women, in Ontario, out of business. Conversion to non-profit status will not guarantee the owner's position since he or she could be voted out of business by the centre's board of directors."

If the government really wanted to provide more day care spaces it could have spent the \$100 million for salary enhancements and conversion incentives on additional subsidies for needy children in either private or non-profit centres. The waiting lists for subsidized care would have been cleared up instantly. Instead this government is likely to provide more subsidies to the non-profit or taxpayer-funded centres while more and more private centres which provide excellent care at a reasonable price will be forced to close.

Because of its ideological blinkers, this socialist government cannot see that private centres can offer the same level of service as non-profit centres but at a better price. In the end it is the taxpayers and their children who suffer because of the government's blindness to the link between the profit motive and efficiency.

Before I conclude my remarks I would like to spend a minute addressing the throne speech's statements about energy and the environment. I am extremely curious about details of the government's green industrial strategy, which I hope will be announced soon. However, if it takes this government as long to implement the green strategy as it is taking to streamline the environmental assessment process, people will be waiting years for results.

I approve of the government's emphasis on energy conservation or demand management. In fact, today I'm holding an energy conservation forum in conjunction with the Ministry of Energy, Hydro Mississauga and the Consumers' Gas Co to help my constituents identify ways to conserve energy in the home. However, I have also heard from major power users which are concerned that we are dangerously underestimating the amount of electricity we will need in the future. I hope this government will not put Ontario in the position of having insufficient power to maintain our industries in peak periods of demand. Our economy is already hurting badly; we cannot afford lost productivity because of poor energy supply management.

To conclude my comments I want to return to my opening comments about the two faces of the Premier's socialist government. This throne speech has a conciliatory, pro-business tone, but words must translate into actions before we will be convinced. If the NDP government introduces labour law reforms that result in lost jobs and investment, if it thinks an industrial strategy means government spending and investment, and if it puts private day care centres out of business, we will know this socialist government does not understand or respect the role of the private sector as the engine that powers Ontario's economy.

We are waiting to see if the NDP is really willing, to quote from the throne speech, "to work in partnership to achieve the goals we share."

1650

**Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview):** I want to address a very specific issue in what the honourable member has spoken about in terms of housing. Of course it is something I'm very concerned about. We have something in common. The member did mention that she's having a problem within her constituency in terms of, from what I understood, the illegal aspect to housing. I share that concern as well.

I honestly believe our piece of legislation will address the concerns she has been speaking about, and I think she neglected a lot. I think she neglected to talk a little bit about rights of tenants, and rights of landlords, those home owners she was talking about as well, about the fact that after this piece of legislation goes through, and more specifically the Landlord and Tenant Act, they will have rights. They will know exactly where they stand on the issue, and the questions they have had in the past will be answered.

I know that in my constituency, home owners will frequently come in and say that they've rented out a room or two or they've rented out a basement and they want to



know their rights. Frankly, right now, as it stands, even I am not too sure about their rights. I think a piece of legislation actually addressing those concerns will help both the home owner and the prospective tenants who may live there.

In terms of tenants, I think we have agreed in the past that we don't agree in our views. I think that we on this side certainly care for that single mom who needs that basement apartment. From statements the member has made today, not only now during her speech but earlier, it is obvious the Conservatives are still stuck-up, as always.

**Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale):** I appreciated the comments made by the member for Mississauga South. She honed it down to one of the major, important things that we in this Legislature should address ourselves to, and that is the whole issue of trade and business interdependence.

I think her point that if this government does not follow along with some kind of policy approach that would at least to some degree placate our businesses from leaving, and by leaving taking jobs across the border—obviously it is so important that we concentrate on jobs. The member for Mississauga South has identified this as a major point. I would only hope this government will take that point very seriously. We all know the economy obviously is tied in. There will be interdependence. The borders are falling, trade relationships are changing and Canada—especially Ontario—can no longer afford to take a parochial view in terms of trade and economic development.

I would only hope that this government—the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology happens to be here today—will take seriously the fact that the minister has to do more in cabinet to ensure that his colleagues will be with him when he talks to the Premier about expanding businesses; to give incentives to businesses; and above all else—to include the climate that this government would have, especially as it relates to the future—that there obviously should be a business attitude fostered within the parameters of cabinet that would ensure that business stays and that jobs are being created.

The second point I know the member for Mississauga South would want to make if she could is that of safety on the streets.

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I want to spend a moment commending and congratulating my colleague the member for Mississauga South and saying how ashamed I am that the NDP took exception to her very thoughtful remarks. I think the NDP members who were quick to criticize the member for Mississauga South should know that she was born in England, lived through the war and came from a much humbler background than many of these NDP members pretend they come from. She comes from a very humble family. That family came to Canada and was able to eke out a living and prosper, essentially, in most of her lifetime, under a Conservative government in Ontario. For 42 years, you could make a living in Ontario, you could prosper, you could do well and you could get off unemployment and welfare rolls. That is no longer possible.

I also note in the member's comments that she mentioned the transfer payments from the federal government. I want to say to the members of this House that a fact that is very often lost when the government in this Legislature blames the federal government for not transferring enough money for welfare, health and social assistance, is that those transfer payments from the federal government were not cut this year, were not cut last year and won't be cut next year. Each year this government has received a 5% increase from the federal government in those transfer payments.

The Minister of Health, the Premier and the Treasurer decided to give hospitals and schools 1% this year. I think the essential question is, what happened to the 4% difference, the cash they received from the federal government? They got 5%. It wasn't a cut. They clearly got a 5% increase this year from the federal government, got a 5% increase last year and will get 5% next year. The question is, what did they do with the extra cash they got from the federal government?

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** I want to comment on the issue the previous member brought up and the member for Mississauga South mentioned in her speech about the comments the Premier made at both the first ministers' conference and the speech at Queen's University. The response from the opposition and from the member is to say that somehow the Premier is taking a very parochial view, that he's only looking out for Ontario and doesn't care about the country.

My interpretation of what the Premier said is the following: The federal government had and has legal commitments to this province and has made those commitments to fund programs at a certain rate. It has decided, for those "have" provinces, to put a cap on. At the same time as it decided to put that cap on, there have been federal policies, free trade, high interest rates, a high Canadian dollar, that have had a tremendous impact on this province, with the result of losing over 270,000 jobs.

I think any neutral observer would say, "We understand the federal government has a financial difficulty, but if it is going to place this cap on and still carry out these other policies that are having a very severely detrimental effect on this province, then it has a moral obligation to work with the province, to be cooperative with the province, to try to come up with other solutions to help Ontario get the economy going again." That is what the Premier has been saying. They have this obligation to provide some leadership and to be willing to work if they are going to carry out these other actions, with their tremendous impact.

The member mentioned money for health care. He didn't mention the over 40% increase in welfare rates, and the federal government is capping at 5%. That has a detrimental impact on this province, and there is a moral obligation among the federal government to provide some leadership and work with the province to find solutions that both will agree on.

1700

**Mrs Marland:** I think it is always interesting when you have a socialist ideology, because the thing about



these government members is that they think they know from what base any comments are being made by opposition members.

I find it particularly significant to hear today from the member for Yorkview, who sat for more than 12 months as a member of the standing committee on general government that dealt with Bills 4 and 121, and today he says, "I'm not even sure of the rights of tenants and landlords." This person, this member for Yorkview, who voted on Bill 4, who voted on Bill 121, and in fact voted against all the amendments that were brought forward by the opposition, today admits, after a year of dealing with landlord and tenant legislation, that he doesn't understand their rights. I could understand a member who hasn't sat on the committee saying that, but I think it's deplorable that a member who had the responsibility to vote on behalf of tenants and landlords in this province says today he's not sure of their rights.

I simply say to the member for Oxford that if he's talking about the federal government's commitment to fund programs, he better look very closely at this provincial government's commitment and responsibility to fund programs in this province and go out to the region of Peel and talk to the parents and teachers of those children in an education system which is being hacked and chopped because this government does not fulfil its commitment to fund programs. Simply, you are not in a position to criticize the federal government.

**Mr Mammoliti:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: In terms of what I've done in the past and in terms of what I've done in committee, I've continually said—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Order. That is not a point of order. You may not agree with the honourable member—

Interjection.

**The Acting Speaker:** It is not a point of order. For further debate, the honourable member for Renfrew North.

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** It looks like we're here for the weekend.

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** I want to disabuse my good friend the member for Mississauga West that we are here for the weekend. We certainly are not. I am aware that the Premier wishes to conclude these debates this afternoon, and I certainly want to facilitate that. I understand I have something like 25 or 30 minutes and I shall try to use those minutes to make some comments on behalf of myself, as the member in this Legislature for North Renfrew, and on behalf of my colleagues in the official opposition.

Of course, Mr Speaker, I am delighted to see you discharging your responsibilities. It is always good to see a fellow easterner, and particularly one who comes from north Stormont. I will ask your support in trying to contain what we would have called once upon a time in here the Chicago gang. Mind you, they were on this side. But the Chicago gang over there from Kingston and Pickering and Barrie and Durham I am sure will want to be like I always

am in here, which is very quiet and very understanding of the other side of any debate.

We have the Lieutenant Governor's speech, which is an interesting speech. I must agree with one of my colleagues who said that it was more like a session ender than a throne speech, but I don't intend to carp my way through 30 minutes of this, notwithstanding the opportunities that might be provided to do that.

I must say, though, that if there is one thing I come back to the session with, it is a direction from my constituents in eastern Ontario that they are sick and tired of the various levels of government in our wonderful federalism blaming each other for the woes of the land. I must say I am increasingly disposed to support them in that. I know what it's like to be a provincial minister, a provincial member, because you can blame those governments on either side of you, the national government and the local government. But I want to say, having spent the winter months in part travelling around eastern Ontario, most of it in my own constituency of North Renfrew, people are really concerned about what they think is the waste of time often engaged in by politicians blaming one another.

I must say, though I thought it was one of the most interesting lines in the Lieutenant Governor's speech—let me just cite it, because my friend the former Attorney General would, I am sure, want me to do this. Tell me where you have heard language like this before, and to hear Lieutenant Governor Jackman read this was doubly inspiring:

"My government has made it clear to the national government that this is not the time, particularly as profound changes are being negotiated to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, for more adventurism at the expense of Ontario jobs."

The reference here, of course, is to the negotiations around the Canada-US-Mexico free trade arrangement. The language "adventurism" is part of the Cold War vernacular that I thought even Ontario socialists understood was passé.

The Lieutenant Governor's speech was a very interesting speech, because I had the pleasure of sitting very close to his family. I think the member for St George-St David would want me to observe that it was a very special and memorable occasion last week when the Lieutenant Governor put the following words before the assembly and the distinguished guests, including his sister, the erstwhile Conservative candidate provincially for St Andrew-St Patrick.

I was watching Miss Nancy Jackman when the Lieutenant Governor said: "The legislation"—meaning the reforms to the Ontario Labour Relations Act—"with changes based on the results of those consultations"—those very famous NDP-style consultations—"will come forward this session. Many will prejudge the bill and spend large sums of money doing so." At that point even the Lieutenant Governor's sister found her enthusiasm uncontrollable and uncontainable.

It is interesting when we see even in the throne speech an almost anticipatory concern about the fact that there might be people on the other side of an NDP policy who



might actually go out and inspire the public to what the NDP is about and that these people might actually use the NDP play book against the NDP government. It's very obvious that our friends in the New Democratic Party don't like that. We have had all kinds of evidence over the last number of months to suggest that the NDP really does not like it when other people organize and lobby in ways that it has done so splendidly for so many years.

I was sitting here yesterday listening to the now absent member for Etobicoke West and he was working his way through the vernacular. I don't necessarily share these views, but I was chuckling listening as he worked off the various phrases. "Community-based activism," he said, is of course synonymous with Dipper partisanship. It's certainly not my view, but I just thought it interesting that when the Lieutenant Governor read those remarks, even his sister, dispassionate lady that she is, found her response uncontrollable and uncontainable.

**Ms Sharon Murdock (Sudbury):** You said that already.

**Mr Conway:** I'm always happy to have the member for Ottawa Centre here to guide me and keep me from being repetitive.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** It wasn't me. I think it was the member for Sudbury.

**Mr Conway:** I apologize. It's the member for Sudbury.

**The Acting Speaker:** Could the honourable member address the Chair, please. It might avoid a lot of confusion.

**Mr Conway:** Yes. My friend the member for St Catharines—and I think this is so true of my friends in the new democracy—but the member for St Catharines, if he were here, would say, "The one thing about the NDP that has to be observed is that they don't understand that politics is like baseball; it's a game of both pitching and catching." The member for St Catharines is right. This is a group of pitchers; they do not like the catching. They do not like the lacerations that are applied to their governmental backs by means that they have themselves employed over the decades in this business.

I am going to talk a bit about the Martel hearings, but to see Sue Colley, the executive assistant to the Minister of Health, come before our committee, was like the new Evelyn Gigantes. It was Mary Poppins revisited. It's Sue Colley the Innocent: "Oh, gee whiz, I'm just new to all of this." Sue Colley? The Sue Colley I know? The activist, the NDP partisan who camped out in ministers' offices, who hell-raised around here like few people I've ever known or met? I don't fault her for that, not at all. She did extraordinarily good work for the child care coalition—absolutely. But to be offered up as Sue Colley the Innocent stretches credibility beyond most other things I've experienced in the last few months around this place.

1710

Speaking of credibility gaps, in his speech the Lieutenant Governor also—I thought again of the absent member for St Catharines. Who among the environmental community did not find themselves transported into a kind of environmental heaven when they heard of this kind of activism from the Minister of the Environment? Remem-

ber her, the cutting edge of environmentalism? Let me read page 11 of the Lieutenant Governor's speech. Almost two years into the mandate of this government we are told by the Lieutenant Governor himself:

"The environment bill of rights consultation group, involving members of the environmental and business communities, is expected to report this spring. Draft legislation will be released later this year."

I have to say that's action. I tell you, Mackenzie King would look at that and say, "Not so fast." It appears that we're going to get to the end of this four-and-a-half-year term and we might actually have a bill for first reading.

**Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David):** No, draft legislation.

**Mr Conway:** Well, no, I'm expecting two years to get the draft legislation out and another two years to get a bill ready for first reading.

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** With your help.

**Mr Conway:** As the member for Ottawa Centre rightly observes, with my help. Again, for me this is all about promise versus performance. I'm not one of these caterwauling oppositionists who in all respects is going to hold particularly this government to some of the outrageous commitments it has made. I hope and I pray daily that we are not going to see them do some of the things they said they wanted to do, because this is an economy in very basic restructuring in continuing recession. On behalf of my constituents, I am anxious to see recovery and new wealth created to stimulate new employment across the province.

When the Premier said what he said to the Ontario provincial council of the New Democratic Party three weeks ago, he certainly enjoyed my support. I will say to him, hopefully not with synthetic indignation or in fact with synthetic enthusiasm, that I appreciate, as do most of my constituents, the very difficult times in which he finds himself. It is a very tough time, as not just Ontario New Democrats are finding, but as New Brunswick Liberals, federal Tories and, yes, even Saskatchewan New Democrats are finding.

I think it behooves all of us who want to see a more credible public and political discourse to focus our attention on that which is achievable and that which is responsible in the context of the 1990s. I for one do not intend to hold out a variety of irresponsible commitments that no government, irrespective of how well-intended it might be, could ever hope to achieve.

I come back here after the winter recess and hear from people in my constituency that they are concerned in ways many of them have never been concerned before about their jobs, about their spouses' jobs and about their childrens' jobs or hopes of jobs. This recession has bitten into a part of the Ontario economic core that has not been touched by previous recessions.

I come from a little resource community called Barry's Bay, where I grew up. I am deeply troubled when I go home and see my parents and a lot of my friends, most of whom are now out of work because there isn't a sawmill



around that's anywhere near full employment. I understand the reasons for that. There are no quick fixes.

I congratulate the Rae government for appointing John Valley and that special group the member for Algoma has put in place to find some intermediate and long-term solutions. I think that's an initiative spoken to in this throne speech that deserves the support of all members. It certainly has the support of this member and my constituents, because we have unemployment rates in communities like Barry's Bay and Killaloe and Eganville, and my friend the member for Victoria-Haliburton knows only too well what's going on in his resource communities of Haliburton and north Victoria. It is not a good situation.

I was in the Stedman's store the other day in Barry's Bay, talking to a former reeve who runs that store, and he said his sales were down over 30% this February compared to last February. The Minister of Labour has a cottage in that part of the world, and he knows some of those businesses very well. His sales are off 30%. People who have money are not spending it, and more and more working families just do not have it to spend.

People are coming off unemployment; they're on social assistance. The social welfare reforms that the Minister of Community and Social Services is talking about I also applaud, because I represent a county with 36 municipalities, many of which have almost no tax base, many of which have populations of 300, 400, 500 and 600, and they cannot afford nor can they sustain much longer the burdens that social welfare has placed upon them.

As governments did 50 years ago in this country, we are going to have to redefine that relationship, not just between the province and the municipalities, but between the province and the Dominion government. It's not going to be easy, but I say to you, Mr Speaker, on behalf of the people I represent in rural Renfrew and in the urban communities like Pembroke—and many of those communities are like Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry—we cannot go on much longer.

That is why I support the Premier when he says the days of the 5%, 6% and 7% annual pay increase when inflation's at 1.5% are just not on. He deserves our support when he conveys that message, and I know it's not always happily received by some of his supporters or some of mine. I don't like the fact, I suppose, that my salary was frozen this year and is going to be frozen next year, but I understand that, and I applaud the Premier for taking that leadership, because we'll have no hope with our public service, with our para-public service and with the community beyond if we are not seen to be taking that leadership role. I know as well that it's easy for a 40-year-old bachelor to offer up that kind of praise, because I don't have a spouse and four children. I think if I did, I probably couldn't afford to be here, but none the less, I again congratulate the government for taking a tough decision.

That is why I get so angry about this Eliesen business, because it is such a glaringly bad example. I know the Grits and the Tories may have been terrible in the days of their regime, but I thought the NDP had a new policy. In appointing Marc Eliesen to that job—to those jobs, I might add, both the chairmanship and the CEO—you have done

it differently than it's been done before with that kind of political appointment.

I have no difficulty with Marc Eliesen being appointed as chairman, but I do have a profound difficulty with his being appointed as both chairman and chief executive officer. At any rate, that debate will continue, but I say to my friends opposite that the Eliesen example is a terrible example. It may be that some of us are reading into all of this more than is there, but how—

**Hon Ms Gigantes:** Yes.

**Mr Conway:** The member for Ottawa Centre says yes, and she may be right. That is why I want all the facts and I want them here. I don't want to have to send over to the Ontario Energy Board two months from now to get those. It was your order in council, it was your appointment, and I think you owe it to this assembly to tell us where we are wrong and where we may be right. I think even a dispassionate observer would say the way in which this has evolved to date has been uneven and somewhat incomplete.

My farmers, my unemployed loggers, are saying: "Increases of 9% or 10% in terms of hydro next year? I paid 12% and 13% this year, and now I read in the paper that the chairman of Ontario Hydro has two cars, he's got some kind of a deluxe pension, he's got home security, he's got a salary in excess of a quarter of a million dollars, and he's got so much money he's even got \$1,000 to procure financial services as to how to invest it."

I've got to tell you, in Moose Creek, in Wilno and in four-corners Ontario, that's not selling. I want to say to the government, and to the leader of the government particularly, I want and expect you to show leadership in the Eliesen matter just as you've shown leadership in some of these other matters to which I've made reference and for which I am prepared, quite honestly, to give you credit.

**Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich):** It's a rerun.

**Mr Conway:** My friend from Windsor says, "It's a rerun." I want to tell you that I am going to run and rerun this tape until I get some answers, because I am concerned about it. It may be that I'm wrong; I've certainly been wrong before. But I think it's only fair to request the information. What was the deal with Mr Eliesen? Because it's symbolic.

I repeat: If you are a farmer in Renfrew county, if you are running a sawmill—I was talking to a sawmiller the other day. His hydro bill will have gone up by, I believe, about 23% over the last year and a half. That's going to mean, to that individual, over \$200,000 in additional cost and he hasn't got it to give.

1720

Dairy farms and sawmills, to name two examples in the resource sector, are enormously dependent on electricity. In case you haven't heard, those parts of our resource economy are in dire straits. My friend the member for Cochrane North will understand what some of these electrical bills are for some of these sawmills. They will pay it, obviously, because most of them have no choice.

But to read that some of the costs at Hydro are as they have been described in our popular press and in statements in this Legislature is to add pain upon pain. I repeat: I expect more leadership from this government on the question of openness and accountability in Hydro affairs than I have seen to date.

I want to touch briefly on what I think will be one of the most central issues for this assembly in this session, and that is the reform of the Ontario Labour Relations Act. I want to say that throughout my part of the province there is deep and serious concern about what the government intends.

Let me say that I expect to see a bill that will incorporate a number of the criticisms that have been levied through the consultation process. I heard the other day that the very distinguished Deputy Minister of Labour, a gentleman for whom I have the highest regard, was, in the course of some consultation, making plain that the government was listening. I was happy to hear that.

The minister is not always a man with whom I agree, but he is not incapable of understanding what he's hearing. He must understand, as we all do, that as this economy struggles with recession—you saw the growth projections from the Conference Board of Canada and others the other day. It is not going to be the kind of year that we expected it to be, and 1993 may be equally sluggish. It is going to put pressures on all of us to understand that we are going to have to create new wealth if we are going to sustain that which we all want.

People in Renfrew county, whether they support the New Democratic Party or whether they support others, are deeply concerned about the timing of the labour relations initiative, about the extent to which there has been real and meaningful consultation and about the kind of balance that is going to be struck by this government, a government that appears to be so beholden to a select number of very senior powerful union interests in this province. That concern is out there and it must be understood and responded to.

If we get the kind of labour relations reform that some people are suggesting, we are going to arrest any kind of economic recovery in this, the economic heartland of the Dominion of Canada. That is going to hurt people in York South, it is going to hurt people in north Renfrew and it is going to hurt people all across the province. That kind of hurt we cannot stand, and we ought not to impose it upon ourselves and upon our colleagues in the economy at this time.

As I look to the clock and see that I've probably got six or eight minutes remaining, I want to turn again to a question that I have expressed some interest in both today and over the past four months. That is the question of the conduct of the honourable Minister of Northern Development and the conduct of others involved in the so-called Martel inquiry.

I want to say that in the course of 16½ years, I've had the opportunity to serve on a number of legislative inquiries, and I've had the opportunity as a student of Ontario political history to look at some others. I always like to cite the so-called Moog business of 1972-73 as another good

example of where this Legislature was seized of a highly political issue involving the conduct of one of our members—at that time, the member for Peel North, the honourable Premier of the province himself, Mr William Grenville Davis.

But like my other colleagues in the Liberal Party, I sat through these hearings with a real degree of interest, and I think with a reasonable degree of impartiality.

Interjections.

**Mr Conway:** People laugh and they say, "Well, didn't you say at the outset that the member for Sudbury East ought to resign?" I did say that.

Interjections.

**Mr Conway:** I'd like a little bit of attention, if I could.

**The Acting Speaker:** Order, please. We have too many private conversations. The honourable member for Renfrew North does have the floor and does merit being listened to.

**Mr Conway:** I want to make a point. I don't care if people interject, but I want to make a serious point that I hope people understand. I said the minister ought to resign, as early as December 10 I think it was, because of what she said.

I have always argued that the Martel business admitted of two possibilities. Either the minister had access to confidential information to which she was clearly not entitled, in which case she and a number of other people were clearly in difficulty—I am quite proud to say that after five weeks of legislative investigation it is obvious there was no smoking gun. There was no evidence to connect the minister with the smoking gun, which was for me the Teatero memorandum of November 13. I say that to my friends in the assembly this afternoon, but I say something else, that there was a second possibility, that a minister of the crown, one of our colleagues, has admitted throughout this piece that she made up a story that just happened to slander, or at least smear, an Ontario citizen, a citizen who was involved with the honourable member in quite an active and sometimes controversial public discussion about a major public issue.

I simply say that when those of us who have been honoured with the responsibility of office take the oath, we take an oath that says among other things—I want to read the oath of allegiance that all ministers, past and present, have signed in recent times. Among other things, it causes the individual minister to swear: "I will be vigilant, diligent and circumspect in the performance of my duties. I will not discuss decisions of the executive council outside of council without the consent"—

[Laughter]

**Mr Conway:** Everybody laughs. It's a big laughing matter. Let me put it this way: When any of us, particularly any of us in cabinet, has to think about going to take a lie-detecting test to prove we're telling the truth, it's over. I am humiliated that any of my friends, any of my colleagues would ever think they had to go and take a lie-detecting test to prove they were telling the truth.



**Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications):** To you.

**Mr Conway:** I want to say to my friend the member for Perth that if that day ever comes with me—it might; I hope to God it never does—I must in honour resign, because this is an issue that goes to the core of our system.

I have known the member for Sudbury East a long time. I happen to like her. I do not want to believe, I do not want to be told that Elie and Gaye Martel's daughter is a liar, because I don't believe it. But if I'm asked to believe that, then it seems to me that in our system of government of honourable members the basis of that honour is that we tell the truth to one another. In cabinet we swear an oath that we will tell the truth to one another. If any of us should ever contemplate going to find a polygraph to affirm that we have told the truth when we said we were lying about a citizen with whom we were having a public argument, do we not understand, all of us as honourable members, what that means?

This is a tragedy, and it is a tragedy that contaminates all of us. Of course we've all made mistakes, Mr Speaker. I've made them, you've made them, Joan Smith made them, Peter Kormos has made them. A lot of other very distinguished, and sometimes not distinguished, members have made mistakes. But in our system the fundamentals turn on the notions of trust and honour and the notion that if any honourable member who is of the executive council should lie for whatever reason, and admit to lying, he or she has breached that trust and must by definition, I submit, offer to the leader of the government—this government or any government—his or her resignation.

That is not to say there will not come another time, because we have all kinds of case history showing where people have in fact served their time out of government and honourably returned. But that is the core of my concern. I know there will be people who think: "Conway's on a witchhunt. He's hell-bent to get even for the past." I tell you, I've had to do some things in my life as a cabinet minister involving some of my colleagues I hope and pray none of you ever has to do. I have been there in some of the most poignant, tearful and tragic moments in public life, and it's not any fun. The Premier has my sympathy.

1730

I will sit down simply with this final observation: Our system is a system of honourable members, some of whom serve in the high office of the executive council, an office to which we swear an oath that talks about circumspection, about not impugning the integrity of our fellow executive councillors, that respects as secret all matters that may be disclosed by council in arriving at a decision, and, interestingly—this is what I was trying to find earlier—an oath that says, "I will not disclose to any person outside of the cabinet any discussions or any decisions relating to the conduct of another member of cabinet." Read the oath; the oath just oozes with these principles that underscore this doctrine.

I just say to you, I like to think—and I know it sounds odd—as a friend and a colleague, not just of the member

for Sudbury East but of her father before her, when the day comes that any one of us has to even think about going to take a polygraph, we are in deep trouble. We are in deep trouble because we have violated the honour code of trust and truth-telling. That's my concern. Unless there is some redress to that concern, it's not just the Rae government that is going to be troubled by this; it is all honourable members in all parliaments across this land and across the British Commonwealth.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I appreciate the opportunity to speak in reply to the throne speech and the debate which it engendered. The purpose of a throne speech, of course, is to present the agenda of the government as clearly as we possibly can and to give an opportunity to the House to consider as directly as it can the issues before the province.

I was not able to be here for the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition, nor for the comments of the leader of the third party, and I want to say to both of them that I regret having been away. I would like also to say to the House that I regret that the circumstances of the constitutional discussion will from time to time require my absence from the Legislature for the next few weeks.

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** You read our remarks carefully.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I read your remarks carefully; I have them in front of me. I would simply say to my colleagues who say, for example, that the economy comes first and therefore the Premier should not be spending his time on the Constitution—I'm sure members who have constituency offices will understand the sentiment from which that comment flows.

I would only say to members, members of my own cabinet and colleagues in the caucus, that the fundamental reality of our time is that until and unless we resolve the constitutional differences that have so bedevilled public debate in this country for the last several years, it is going to be more difficult for us to get the economy moving. The fundamental fact of life, I believe, is that the confidence the world has and which we as Canadians must have in the country depends to a significant degree on our ability to forge effective and real national unity.

I want to stress at the outset that the fundamental direction that was set in the throne speech does represent a clear message from this government to this Legislature and to the people of the province, as clear a message as we can possibly deliver, that the economic changes which have taken place in the province are very real, they are profound and they require a change in attitude and a change in action from all of us in the province.

The member opposite who just finished speaking, the member for Renfrew North, commented on a number of these changes. He commented as well and spoke very eloquently about his own constituency and his own riding. I know it's not much comfort to the honourable member for me to say this to him, but I will only say to him that I appreciated his comments. I think they reflect the frustration and concern that are felt by all members of the House and

are felt, I believe, by the citizens of the province when they consider how much the world has changed and when they consider the impact of these changes on us.

I also can't resist saying from time to time that I am rather struck by the fact that although we demand the changes that are obviously required, it's I suppose not inappropriate that from time to time we do comment on our partisan differences, and no doubt there will be some moments in my speech when I do refer to some of that. I still find, and this is partly because of the structure of our place, that there is still an enormous tendency for members of the opposition to want to have it both ways. I find it strange, for example, that people in opposition who have been in government—and now we're in a position where there isn't any party that hasn't been in government. The third party was in government for 42 years; the party opposite was in office for five.

The fundamental reality is that there is no way that Ontario can make the changes which are required without there being a degree of sacrifice and a degree of difficulty for the people of the province. I wish it were otherwise. Nothing would make me happier than to be the Premier at a time when difficult decisions were not required and when some people were not going to be told news they did not want to hear. It would be great to be able to simply deliver good news from the desk and from the office of the Premier of the province. That isn't possible.

I don't expect the opposition—given, as I say, the structure of our system—to praise me or praise us for making difficult decisions, I don't expect them to support them, but I want to say to honourable members, don't ask us not to reflect on the irony of listening to comments being made, for example, by members of the third party about the difficulties being faced by school boards and have the member for London North, who is a former chairman of a school board, say, when one of our members was answering the question: "Just spend the money. Just give them the money. Just give it to them."

**Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines):** That's what you used to say.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member opposite from St Catharines says that's what I used to say. Okay, fair enough. I'm not denying for a moment that as somebody who was a particularly difficult and tendentious member of the opposition for 10 years, I suffered the disadvantage of having every self-righteous comment known to history being found in Hansard following my name. I understand that.

1740

**Mr Mahoney:** You've got them all confused. They don't understand the word "tendentious."

**Hon Mr Rae:** I want to say to the member for Mississauga West, I understand that. I think people understand that. The member for St Catharines knows that as well. But just to give you an example, whom did the member for St Catharines blame for the GM decision to close down part of the foundry operation in his own constituency? What was his first reaction? He said, "Well, you

know, if the NDP government hadn't been there, this might not have happened." A more implausible statement—

**Mr Bradley:** You were the negative factor.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member opposite says I was a negative factor. Does that explain why Ford on Monday decided to invest \$2 billion in the province? Is that the explanation? I would say to the honourable member, all you have to do is look at the reality of the restructuring that is going on, at the fact that there is significant overcapacity in the car industry. To ask and expect that Ontario will be singularly free from the changes going on around the world and that everything that takes place in the province with respect to a layoff or a plant closure is somehow uniquely the problem of the government that happens to be there at the time—nobody believes the honourable member when he utters that kind of partisan nonsense. That is the fact of the matter.

The facts of the matter are that this government is having to make the most difficult decisions governments have had to make in this province for the last 50 years—

**Mr Harris:** Bullshit.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Difficult, I say to the honourable member who says that's not true. When the Treasurer's budget comes down in a couple of weeks' time it will be clear that this government has been prepared to make more difficult decisions, to define them clearly and to set out the choices as to why we have had to make them, than other governments have had to do.

As I say, I don't say we did it because we enjoyed it or because it's the first thing that came to mind when we came into office or it's the reason many of us went into public life. We are doing it because the public sector and the private sector in this province have to change and we must be leaders in that change and demonstrate how and when it will be done. The Minister of Health has to do it; the Minister of Community and Social Services has to do it; the Minister of Education has to do it. There isn't a ministry in this government that doesn't have to make these decisions and show that it can in fact be done.

I want to respond as well to one other comment made by the member for Renfrew North, which I was interested in. He didn't follow up on it. I wanted just to pursue it with him. He commented on the extent of the welfare problem in his own constituency. We have now a situation where welfare costs in the province are well over \$5 billion and are projected in years to come to go even higher. It is putting an enormous burden on this government. It's putting an enormous burden on our municipal governments.

The leader of the third party was very critical of me for comments I made about the impact the federal cuts were having on our province. He was saying that somehow I was being disruptive of Confederation itself by pointing out the hard fiscal realities we are having to experience as a result of the unilateral changes made by the government in Ottawa.

**Mr Bradley:** "Don't blame me; blame the feds."



**Hon Mr Rae:** It's not a matter of blaming any other level of government; it's a matter of explaining to the citizens of this province what has caused this particular problem and why so much of the impact is being felt and experienced by the taxpayers of this province.

Let me say to the members of the Conservative Party that when we went through the recession in 1981 the federal government was supporting social assistance in this province with 50-cent dollars. The federal government in the recession of 1990, 1991 and now 1992 is supporting social assistance in this province with 30-cent dollars—the first time that has happened since the beginning of the Canada assistance plan.

I want to say to the honourable leader of the third party that if he thinks that's fair and he thinks that's right, then he doesn't realize it's costing \$3.5 billion, which we are now short as a result. That is information the people of this province have to have, the people of this province need to have and the people of this province deserve to have.

The fact of the matter is—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon Mr Warner):** Order. Would the Premier take his seat for a moment, please.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Would the leader of the third party come to order, please.

**Hon Mr Rae:** What precisely is the change we have experienced? First of all, the change we have experienced is the most dramatic difficulty our economy has experienced in many years. Second, the fundamental reality is that the federal government, for a variety of reasons, is not sustaining the social expenditures in this province, federal and provincial, that have been a foundation of public expenditure since the 1960s when medicare and the Canada assistance plan were established. That is a fundamental and unilateral change which has occurred in the last three years. These are facts which need to be understood by everyone.

I want to refer to other changes which were required as well. The member for Renfrew North made a comment with respect to my comments about the public sector. I will say it again: The notion that somehow we can settle or encourage settlements or subsidize settlements that run far in excess of the rate of inflation is simply not on. That's again a message that perhaps not everybody would like to hear. People are saying, "It's not what I got last year" or, "It's not what I was expecting to get two years ago." That's still the fundamental reality we are all going to have to adjust to.

Last year our revenues were down in real terms, and we continued to sustain programs at a rate which allows people to survive in this very difficult recession.

Interjection.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member for York Mills describes our social assistance plans as a socialist boondoggle. He would perhaps understand that the foundations of the Canada assistance plan were established by the federal Parliament in the 1960s. The changes that have been made in this

province to social assistance have been made over the years and are ones which need to be understood.

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** That's not what I said. You're selectively quoting me.

**The Speaker:** Order.

Interjections.

**Mr Harris:** Don't lie about what he said. Quote honestly what he said, but don't lie.

**The Speaker:** The leader of the third party knows well the rules and knows that you should not accuse another member of lying.

**Mr Harris:** Mr Speaker, I'm sorry. If you misunderstood me to accuse him of lying, I withdraw. I just suggested that he not:

**Hon Mr Rae:** If I misheard the honourable member, obviously I apologize to him. I apologize if I did mishear him.

**Mr Scott:** Don't overdo it.

1750

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member for St George-St David questions my goodwill. I demonstrate it in all circumstances.

I want to refer at the end of my remarks to some comments that have been made about the Labour Relations Act and the reforms that are being discussed thereto, because I think it's important for us to try to come to terms with the changes that are happening.

South of the border we have just witnessed over the last several months a most difficult, protracted and painful labour dispute involving thousands of employees of the Caterpillar company in Peoria, Illinois. Those employees were told in the middle of a legal dispute that unless they caved in and simply went back to work on the basis on which the company wanted them to come back in, the company would replace all of them with replacement workers.

I want to say to members opposite who think that is a model we should somehow follow or encourage that if you look at the successful examples of economies around the world, they are economies in which the labour movement, in which working people who are working on the shop floor and the people who represent them are seen as legitimate and serious economic partners, who are treated with the same kind of understanding that people who run businesses and people who borrow and people who finance and people who run governments are treated with as well. If we follow the example of those who see the answer in confrontation, in complete insecurity, in undermining the very basis upon which people are negotiating and discussing with one another, if we use that as an example, I think we would be making a serious mistake. It is not an example which we want to follow in this province. If I may say so, it's not an example we have ever encouraged or followed in this province.

The ideas, the proposals, that will find their way into legislation in this province are ideas which follow a long tradition in this province, of encouraging collective bargaining, of allowing it to take place in conditions of mutual

respect and security, and of respecting the responsibilities and the rights of both employers and workers. That is the basis upon which we shall and must move ahead. If we move ahead in this province, as we face this choice, on the basis of cut and slash, of undermining the security of people who are working for a living, if we take that as the approach that is going to drive the day, then I think we're making a major mistake.

I say to members of the House that the legislation the government will be bringing in this spring is legislation that follows the traditions of labour legislation in this province and in North America since the Wagner Act of 1935 in the United States, and I would say to the honourable members opposite that it follows as well the best traditions that are taking place around the world, of workers and employers working effectively together.

I had the opportunity last night to co-chair, with the chairman of the Royal Bank, a dinner of 1,200 people in honour of five people, one of them a journalist, one of them a trade unionist, a business leader from the province of Quebec, Mr Saint-Pierre, Arden Haynes, who is the chairman of Imperial Oil, and a very distinguished public servant from Ottawa.

Previous governments, and I paid tribute to them, have worked hard to bring the various solitudes and sectors of our economy and our society together. That is what Ontario at its best has always done. That's the spirit which allowed Ontario to become as prosperous and successful as it was in the 1950s, the 1960s and the 1970s. It was that same spirit which drove the previous government to establish the Premier's Council, which did so much work in bringing people together.

What we are trying to do, and what this government wants to do is in its own way to reaffirm that partnership and that sense of social solidarity. Nothing will be gained if we end up having a generation of men and women who are, many of them, new to this country if they are unable to bargain, if they are unable to work in association with their employers, if their fundamental security is taken away or is threatened by what is going on in the economy. That's why we've established the principle that workers ought to be able to buy in in order to invest in and save their own jobs. That's why we are so active in supporting this. The workers in Sault Ste Marie are voting today with respect to the question of worker ownership in Algoma.

I was proud of the fact that we were able to get the bankers, the managers and the workers together to make sacrifices that nobody thought they would be prepared to make in order to save those jobs. It is that same determination to create strategic alliances and effective partnerships in the workplace which drives our desire to reform the Labour Relations Act.

I want to say to honourable members I expect and anticipate vigorous opposition to many of the things this government is proposing, but I would ask honourable members to reflect on the fact. I must say some of the comments that were made in speeches trouble me because they say Ontario isn't a good place to invest. The leader of the third party says Ontario has the highest taxes in Canada and North America. That simply isn't the case. It

simply isn't a factual account of what we are experiencing as a province. Nothing is to be gained by any one of us running down the place in which we live and work and in which we want our children to live and work and to grow up and be strong. Nothing is to be gained by doing that.

I do not believe that to say we want to extend the rights of workers through pay equity, employment equity and reforms to the Labour Relations Act takes away in any way, shape and form from the other changes which we feel and believe are essential for the future of this province and for the future of Canada. Government must be more efficient. Regulations must be streamlined. We must do everything we can to make government efficient and productive and to make sure that Ontario continues to be seen as the place to invest, as it has always been seen in this country. We do not do that successfully by taking away from the rights of people or depriving a new generation of Canadians from participating in the economy to the same extent as previous generations have been able to do. We benefit by putting these things together and by letting them happen together.

I appreciate very much the comments that have been made by members opposite and by members of my own party. We will obviously be having another vigorous debate when the budget comes down on April 30. We will obviously be having another vigorous debate when other measures of this government are brought forward. I only hope that in our vigour we remember that Canada comes first, that the country comes first. We must work hard, all of us, to ensure that national unity is successfully achieved this year, as in every year, and that although there are changes happening and changes taking place which many of us would never have dreamed or imagined would take place, we understand and appreciate what is good and great about this province, what we have achieved successfully together and what we have succeeded in doing together.

When we work together, that is Ontario at its best. When we work in partnership, that is Ontario at its best. That's the spirit with which we try to provide leadership to this province and to the people of Canada.

1800

**The Speaker:** The time allotted for the debate on the speech from the throne has expired.

On Tuesday, April 7, 1992, Ms Swarbrick moved, seconded by Mr Bisson, that an humble address be presented to His Honour Lieutenant Governor as follows:

"To the Honourable Henry Newton Rowell Jackman, a member of the Order of Canada, officer in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, bachelor of arts, bachelor of laws, doctor of laws, honorary lieutenant colonel of the Governor General's Horse Guards, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

"We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us."



On Wednesday, April 8, 1992, Mrs McLeod moved that the address in reply to the speech from the throne be amended by adding the following words:

"This House regrets that the speech from the throne simply confirms the government's inability to provide a clear strategy to reinvigorate Ontario's economy, stimulate economic investment, create permanent jobs, tackle welfare and unemployment lines, and condemns the government for:

"Failing to acknowledge and understand the recession's impact on the people of Ontario and instead sacrificing legitimate policy goals for an ideologically driven agenda;

"Failing to rebuild partnerships with business by postponing changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act until meaningful consultation on the proposed changes has occurred;

"Failing to provide real and effective cost containment strategies to control government spending;

"Ignoring the need to address the government's crumbling standards of integrity; and

"Failing to limit additional growth in the already unacceptable provincial deficit to ensure that the credit rating is not further eroded and investor confidence is not further undermined."

On Thursday, April 9, 1992, Mr Harris moved that the amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne be amended by adding the following words:

"Failing to indicate that it will abandon the disastrous tax-borrow-and-spend fiscal policy pursued by successive governments since 1985 that seriously undermines the strong economic foundation that for 42 years provided equal access to the best social, education and health care programs in the world;

"Failing to provide effective leadership in the field of education required for excellence and ultimately to secure our children's futures;

"Ignoring the plight of those in border communities who are trying to keep their businesses open in order to make a living for their families and keep their employees working;

"Ignoring our besieged retail sector by not allowing Sunday openings and forcing thousands of retail workers, many of them women, out of work;

"Continuing to indulge in a pointless and futile attack on the policies of other levels of government at a time when a cooperative effort is required to resolve our nation's constitutional, social and economic policy;

"Creating an environment so hostile to private investors that Ontario is no longer the province of choice for job creators;

"Failure to understand the importance of agriculture and the values of small-town and rural Ontario to the province's prosperity;

"Failure to introduce policies and directions that will restore our confidence in the hope and opportunity that Ontario has traditionally enjoyed."

1810

The House divided on Mr Harris's amendment to the amendment, which was negated on the following vote:

#### Ayes-14

Arnott, Carr, Cunningham, Eves, Harnick, Harris, Jordan, McLean, Runciman, Stockwell, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

#### Nays-90

Akande, Allen, Beer, Bisson, Boyd, Bradley, Brown, Buchanan, Callahan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cleary, Conway, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Daigeler, Drainville, Duignan, Eddy, Fawcett, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, Mahoney, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Mancini, Marchese, Martel, Martin;

Mathysen, McGuinty, Miclash, Mills, Morin, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Pilkey, Poirier, Poole, Pouliot, Rae, Ramsay, Rizzo, Ruprecht, Scott, Silipo, Sola, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziembra.

The House divided on Mrs McLeod's amendment to the motion, which was negated on the following vote:

#### Ayes-36

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Carr, Cleary, Conway, Cunningham, Daigeler, Eddy, Eves, Fawcett, Harnick, Harris, Jordan, Mahoney, Mancini, McGuinty, McLean, Miclash, Morin, O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Poole, Ramsay, Runciman, Ruprecht, Scott, Sola, Stockwell, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

#### Nays-68

Akande, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard;

Mackenzie, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Pouliot, Rae, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziembra.

The House divided on Ms Swarbrick's main motion, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

**The Speaker:** It is therefore resolved that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable Henry Newton Rowell Jackman, a member of the Order of Canada, officer in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, bachelor of arts, bachelor of laws, doctor of laws, honorary

lieutenant colonel of the Governor General's Horse Guards, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

The House adjourned at 1820.

#### ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
3	50	1	25	Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): I have a petition
3	[v]	2	36	Proposed highway . . . . . 50 Mr White



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Sillipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziamba, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale



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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 16 April 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le jeudi 16 avril 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





## **Table of Contents**

Table of Contents for proceedings reported in this issue appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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## **Table des matières**

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve à l'arrière de ce fascicule, ainsi qu'une liste alphabétique de députés de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario.

Il existe un index cumulatif des numéros précédents. Les renseignements qu'il contient sont à votre disposition par téléphone auprès des employés de l'index du Journal des débats au (416) 325-7400.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 16 April 1992

The House met at 1335.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### HEALTH SERVICES

**Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora):** The government's changes to out-of-country health care treatment are having a negative impact on the access to computerized axial tomography scan services in northwestern Ontario. Prior to these changes, residents of this area who needed these services went to Winnipeg, Thunder Bay or International Falls in the United States, depending on proximity, waiting times and degree of urgency.

Under the old system, for those who went to the United States for CAT scans, OHIP paid 75% of the cost while the International Falls Hospital waived the remaining 25%. This was much cheaper than having to send patients to Winnipeg or Thunder Bay. Now area residents must apply for out-of-country treatment benefits that take weeks to receive and do not come close to covering the hospital fees.

Access to elective CAT scans at McKellar General Hospital in Thunder Bay is limited to a long waiting period of some 100 to 270 days compared to the provincial average of 20 to 30 days. These waiting times will increase due to the present changes. This all adds up to reduced access.

If we are to believe that the goals of the Ministry of Health are to focus on preventive medicine and to reduce the cost of health care delivery in this province, improved access to CAT scans in northwestern Ontario will certainly assist these goals. It will cut down on the long waiting period and allow for early diagnosis. It will also cut costs by reducing dependency on the northern health travel grant program.

The NDP government's out-of-country health care policy does not work in northwestern Ontario. It is time this government sat down and actually listened to health care professionals at the local level to address local concerns. The Kenora-Rainy River District Health Council from that part of the province has requested that all concerned parties meet to discuss the problem of access to CAT scan services, and I strongly encourage the Minister of Health to take an active interest in this request.

### TRANSFER PAYMENTS

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** I'd like to point out to members of the Legislature today a serious concern I have regarding the Minister of Education's conduct in relation to how he dealt with the transfer payments to the boards of education in my riding of Dufferin-Peel.

In my riding, the Dufferin County Board of Education has had to raise property taxes 5.57% to cover the cost of this government's downloading. That 5.57% is an increase to the very same taxpayer whom the NDP is trying to protect by offering transfer payments of 1%, 2% and 2%.

For the Peel Board of Education, this same downloading has meant a decrease of 4% in transfer payments, a decrease the property owner will have to make up.

This government preaches restraint and fiscal responsibility, but in fact what it is doing is making someone else deal with the problem. When is this minister going to learn that the same taxpayer he is trying to protect with 1%, 2% and 2% transfer payments is the taxpayer who is being hit with mill rate increases as high as 14%?

The Minister of Education preaches fine, unique solutions. Let me tell you what some of those solutions have been: Teachers have been laid off; no junior kindergarten; reduction of special and alternative programs; programs being frozen or cut. What you have done, Mr Minister, is you've taken our education back in time and caused irreparable harm to our education system. You've taken an education system that was one of the best in the world to a level that is deplorable and an embarrassment.

In 1992, the provincial government will spend \$6.4 billion on welfare and only \$4.9 billion on education. You don't need to tell us where your priorities lie. We already know, and our children are suffering because of it.

### FOOD DRIVE

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** First of all, I'd like to take a moment to wish all members of this Legislature and those watching a restful, peaceful and safe weekend. Fortunately, we are some of those lucky people who don't have to worry about putting food on the table this weekend. I don't need to remind any member of this Legislature that there are many people around the province who aren't quite so fortunate. There are tens of thousands of men, women and children who have to rely on food banks for that meal this weekend.

This is not a partisan issue; rather it is an issue that all members of the society we live in can make a contribution to help address. I would like to encourage all members to do three things this weekend when they return to their ridings to observe Passover or Easter. First, I wish they would all give to their food banks generously this weekend. Second, I'd encourage them to tell their friends and families to do the same. Third, they can publicize it in a number of different ways, to let people know it is a time when we have to be giving.

I have put a little note on the bottom of my personal correspondence over the past couple of weeks, and I'd encourage all members to do that: "Please give generously to your local food banks." It's something we can all do. Many communities had bags that they could put some of their donations in, to be turned in to their ambulance stations, grocery stores and fire stations. I'd encourage all members to do that.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** Today we find Bill 143 regarding waste in the GTA before us once again despite



widespread public opposition and repeated calls for the government to rescind this flawed and ill-conceived legislation.

As recently as yesterday, the chairs of the regional municipalities of Metropolitan Toronto, Durham and York, in conjunction with the mayor of the city of Vaughan, issued a news release calling for the withdrawal of this legislation and requesting an opportunity to work together with the province to solve our solid waste problem.

This unprecedented joint action by these heads of council arises from three serious and important objections to the bill: first, that there is no garbage crisis in the GTA that proper management procedures cannot handle; second, that Bill 143 ignores the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act, including the consideration of a broad range of waste management alternatives; finally, that this bill allows the province to assume municipal responsibilities and gives provincial bureaucrats the power to tell elected municipal councils what their financial priorities should be.

This situation is unacceptable. The municipalities are partners and they certainly deserve better than Bill 143. I call on the minister to withdraw this bill and to begin immediate consultations with our municipal partners on how together we can find sensible waste management solutions based on cooperation and deserving of the public's support.

#### HOSPITAL SERVICES

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** Yesterday the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health attempted to make like Peter Rabbit by informing Simcoe county hospitals that his government would honour a \$108-million hospital funding commitment made by the Liberal government in 1987. What the parliamentary assistant and the Minister of Health have failed to mention is that they have added another trail of roadblocks which further delay the releasing of these badly needed funds.

In 1989 the then Minister of Health travelled to Barrie and said an extensive health services review was needed to determine the best possible use for the millions of dollars allocated to Simcoe county hospitals. She said, and I quote from a newspaper article of three years ago: "The review will begin immediately and the first stage is expected to be completed this fall. At that time, each of the projects will be able to proceed with detailed planning."

These projects have not gone ahead. The announcement made yesterday creates further delays and sounds much like the announcement made by the Liberal Minister of Health in 1989. Now the NDP Minister of Health wants more downsizing and an additional study completed before Simcoe county hospitals can touch the money promised to them five years ago.

People are sick and tired of political promises and politicians who play games with the taxpayers' money. The reaction to the NDP's non-announcement yesterday was swift and decisive. Supporters of the Royal Victoria Hospital feel they have been royally shafted by a government that has chosen to imitate its Liberal predecessors. The Barrie community—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The member's time has expired. Would the member take his seat, please.

#### AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** I rise today to inform members of the House of a very unique opportunity that we should all take advantage of. It involves an exchange program between politicians and farmers sponsored by the Ontario Agricultural Leadership Alumni Association. I participated last year and have signed up again this year. It provides an excellent opportunity for politicians to experience farm life and allows farmers the opportunity to visit Queen's Park to see the Legislature while the House is in session.

We all know that farmers in Ontario are experiencing difficult times. This exchange offers MPPs, especially those from Metro and other urban areas, the chance to see what goes into a day on the farm.

Protection of our ability to maintain our high-quality food supply is essential to this government. However, the farmers need our help. Politicians from all parties have vowed to help the farmers, but more is needed than promises. In order to properly address the farmers' needs, we must work together to achieve our common goal. This is what the alumni are working towards with their exchange program.

Earlier this week, the alumni held a reception for MPPs from all three parties here at Queen's Park to inform them of the exchange program. I am encouraging all MPPs to sign up for this exchange. After all, our food doesn't come from a grocery store; it comes from a farm. By the way, Mr Speaker, have you signed up yet?

#### NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY MAILING

**Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt):** I would like to share with members a piece of correspondence I got. It was at my house. I opened it quite quickly when I arrived and it was from someone called Jill Marzetti. What it said was, "Please send this back right away and sign me up as a member of the New Democrats."

I wondered how I got on that mailing list, but I remembered Jill Marzetti was the person on the Consultation Central Coordinating Committee, the NDP propaganda one. It said she would use mailing lists for ministries.

But what mailing list? Then I see, in the body of the letter she sent me, a reference to older male Liberal cabinet ministers. It must have been that list.

Then it goes on and I think illuminates life as the NDP sees it. It says here, "You know the story—women work to be heard by an older, male cabinet minister—but we all knew our message would be misunderstood by their inability to understand." I think that gives us a little insight and confirmed my belief in the Liberal Party and why I am there, where we don't judge people by their gender or age but rather by their thoughts and actions.

#### HOSPITAL SERVICES

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My statement is for the Minister of Health. Minister, while there appears to be some dismay over your rather vague announcement yesterday with respect to the regional hospital facility in

Barrie, I know for a fact that the people of Orillia and area are pleased with your \$29.55-million commitment for the redevelopment of the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

This financial commitment will result in the redevelopment of the hospital on the existing site, including diagnostic and treatment facilities. This financial commitment will also reconfirm the faith that numerous individuals, businesses, organizations, municipalities and service clubs have shown for this project. They have shown their belief in, and support for the redevelopment of Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital by committing millions of dollars worth of pledges for this project.

Your announcement means these dedicated individuals and organizations can continue with the fund-raising efforts with the expectation that the hospital redevelopment project is now going to evolve from a well-planned dream into a first-class health care facility.

Minister, your announcement means the redevelopment of Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital will finally happen and result in effective and efficient health care planning to meet the needs of those who depend on this facility. However, it would certainly have been nice if your announcement had contained a date for construction and did away with the further studies that are anticipated so we could proceed with this immediately.

BERNARD JAMES MAHONEY

**Mr Gary Malkowski (York East):** Today I would like to express my sadness at the passing of Rev Bernard James Mahoney on April 4 of this year. The reverend was, and is well liked and respected for his pastoral achievements and commitment to the community of York East.

Father Mahoney, as pastor of the East York Canadian Martyrs parish, was instrumental in the establishment of a much-needed senior citizens' housing project at that site. As well, Father Mahoney was active for many years on the East York Peace Committee. On a more global level, the reverend was known for his involvement in the reforms of the Vatican II. Father Mahoney, as a peace activist, champion of the poor and theologian will be missed by all of us.

1350

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** Mr Speaker, I would like to rise on a point of order under standing order 31. This standing order deals with ministerial statements and I would like to refer to that, of which I am sure the House is aware: "(a) A minister of the crown may make a short factual statement relating to government policy, ministry action or other similar matters of which the House should be informed." The intent of this rule is to allow the government to publicly inform this House of important developments and directions in the government.

Yesterday, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations gathered the attention of the members of this House to listen to her ministerial statement about the response of her ministry to the GATT decision on beer and US threats. However, the statement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations was a non-event.

The minister provided no information regarding the activities of her—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member take his seat, please. To the member's alleged point of order: (1) The operative word is "may," and (2) For every ministerial statement which is made there is time allotted to the opposition for its response. Such was the case yesterday.

#### PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Before proceeding with the next order of business, the member for Mississauga West brought to my attention yesterday a remark alleged to have been made by the government House leader and requested that I take a look at Hansard, which I have done. I can report back that there is no remark by the government House leader as the member for Mississauga West had stated.

I should bring to the attention of all members in the House that the guidelines for Hansard as to what appears in our final printed edition are that interjections are not recorded unless they interrupt the proceedings and the member who has the floor at the time responds to the interjection or the Speaker responds to the interjection. If the remarks do not meet those criteria, regardless of who in the chamber may have heard the remarks, then they do not appear in the final edition of Hansard. I should also add of course that all interjections are out of order. I know all members like to observe that.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** Mr Speaker, the member for Mississauga West and I had an opportunity to talk earlier today. I understand that the interjection he referred to—I can honestly say, and I did say this to the member for Mississauga West, that I did not recall the connection between the comment from the member for Renfrew North and my interjection, but if I said anything yesterday to offend any members of the official opposition, I withdraw them and I apologize.

#### MINISTERIAL COURTESY

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. My privileges as a member of the Assembly have been offended. The Minister of Health, despite numerous requests from our office over a period of about five days about what the announcement was going to be with reference to the Chinguacousy health facility, did not have the courtesy to inform my office of it, went out to my riding, met with the mayor and informed him and bypassed the two members, the member for Brampton North and myself. I consider that to be totally unacceptable. Not only did they do that, but they ran roughshod over—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the member take his seat, please. To the member for Brampton South, while I appreciate the concern he has raised, it is not a privilege that he has lost. He speaks of course of general courtesies which may or may not be extended by ministers of the crown. He has voiced his thoughts here and no doubt they have been noted by the Minister of Health.



**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I wonder if you might assist me in the same manner as my colleague the member for Brampton South. He has been through the facts situation. I wonder if it would be a point of privilege with respect to the fact that the minister gave me her personal undertaking in this House that she would respond to the questions I put to her with respect to this matter. Furthermore, she did so in writing and said that she would advise me before any information was forthcoming. I wonder if that might be a point of privilege that was breached.

**The Speaker:** The member does not have a point of privilege. This is a matter to be dealt with between the member and the minister and there would be no appropriate role for the Speaker in that regard.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### FOOD BANKS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is for the Premier. Last year at this time the Premier acknowledged that more had to be done about the increased use of food banks and that more would be done. In the meantime, nothing has been done and the number of people using food banks in Metropolitan Toronto alone has increased some 24%. Now the food banks are closing, not because they are not needed but rather because their staff are burning out.

The need for food is a reflection of the need for other things, mainly jobs. The Premier speaks of taking a longer view, but that won't help the people who face food shortages today. I ask the Premier, how much longer will the food bank lines have to get before your government does something?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I cannot accept the characterization by the Leader of the Opposition that this government only takes a long-term view. I want to remind her that one of the reasons we have a deficit, for which we have been criticized by some, is precisely because we have been providing a very substantial investment and stimulus to the economy.

With respect to the comments made by the leader, I would say to her that we have done everything we can to provide a stimulus to local employment. We have also done a great deal with respect to welfare reform. It is not as much as we would like, but I remind the member that we have without question the most broad-based system anywhere in North America with respect to what we are attempting to do.

I know this is a reply that will not satisfy her and will not make her particularly happy, but I can assure the honourable member that the question of the recession, its impact on people, its impact on children, its impact on the poor is an issue that of course will be addressed in the budget.

**Mrs McLeod:** I want to bring the Premier back to the simple reality that food bank use has increased by some 24% over the past year, that food bank lineups continue to get longer and longer and that the people who have been running the food banks feel they can no longer cope.

The Daily Bread Food Bank has told the government that demand does relate directly to people who have lost their jobs. The daily food bank is also prepared to work with government to develop some creative solutions to the immediate problems. Rather than joining this group around the table, the government has suggested the food bank submit a proposal instead. These people are helping families get from one day to the next. They are simply too busy to write proposals for the government.

We all know that the hunger problem the government had promised to resolved within its first year remains unresolved. I ask the Premier whether his government will at least commit to meeting with the food banks to begin to identify creative, immediate, achievable solutions.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I know the Minister of Community and Social Services will want to do just that.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The Minister of Community and Social Services.

**Hon Mr Rae:** No.

**The Speaker:** I'm sorry; I thought you were redirecting the question.

**Mrs McLeod:** I accept the Premier's answer as a direct response to the question I asked, which was whether his government would commit to a meeting with the food bank. The Premier has indicated the Minister of Community and Social Services will do just that. The Daily Bread Food Bank will certainly appreciate that.

It seems to us that while the Premier responds to the crises of the day by talking about the longer views, people are struggling to find jobs. There are some immediate solutions which could be helpful to these people. For example, with the rising cost of the public transit system, subsidizing transit passes would ensure that the unemployed could easily do their job search.

The Daily Bread Food Bank apparently submitted a proposal to the Minister of Community and Social Services to set up a working committee. The purpose of the effort is to evaluate food bank data and standing recommendations of the type presented to the minister on January 15, 1992, to determine whether targeted approaches could alleviate food bank need for specific groups of people.

I would ask the Premier to confirm that in saying the Minister of Community and Social Services would meet with the food bank representatives, they are in fact committing to setting up this kind of working group to seriously explore those creative proposals such as the subsidization of transit passes.

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**Hon Mr Rae:** Of course we will be prepared to sit down and discuss practical proposals. But when the leader says we have done nothing in the short term, let me remind her that we have committed in the past year \$215 million for social assistance reform; let me remind her that the social services employment program has created approximately 8,000 jobs; let me remind her that we've increased the minimum wage to the point that it's now the highest of any jurisdiction in North America; let me remind her of the anti-recession fund; let me remind her of the \$175 million that has been committed to the wage protection fund; let



me remind her of the work we've done on the supports to employment program, on opportunity planning and of the assistance that has been provided by the Ministry of Labour to people who have been laid off.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** Six per cent for OPSEU; 2% for social assistance.

**Hon Mr Rae:** In case it gets picked up in Hansard, I have to respond to the member opposite. She says, "Six per cent for OPSEU; 2% for social assistance." That's a false analogy. In the same year in which the average settlement across the public sector was 5.8%, this government provided a 7% increase in the basic welfare rate and a 10% increase in the shelter allowance. Get your facts straight.

#### MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My second question is also for the Premier. I would like to return to an issue that, along with the very critical and pressing issues of the day, remains a very serious concern for the members of this House. I know the Premier shares my concern about the lack of faith people have in the political process and in politicians. I refer, in making that assumption, to the Premier's own guidelines for the conduct of his ministers, in which one of the fundamental principles is that ministers shall perform the duties of office and arrange their affairs in such a manner as to maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity of government.

The spectacle of a minister taking a lie detector test to prove she lied because she sees this as a lesser offence than breaching the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act surely undermines public confidence and trust in the integrity of government. I would ask the Premier why he does not seem to agree that this is an offence of sufficient weight to justify asking for the minister's resignation.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I will give the member the answer I provided to the House in December and that I provided in answer to questions previously on this matter. The member for Sudbury East, the Minister of Northern Development, obviously regrets profoundly what has happened. There has been an extraordinary review and investigation of what has taken place. I would say to the honourable member that it's my judgement, with which you can disagree; members opposite certainly have indicated they don't agree with it, and that's fine. I know that's what democracy is all about.

The minister has clearly indicated that she regrets what took place. There were a number of other allegations made by colleagues of the Leader of the Opposition, made throughout question period prior to Christmas and also made prior to the public hearings, which proved to be utterly and completely unfounded and have no relationship to the facts or to what took place.

After all that process the minister has clearly indicated that she regrets what has taken place. I think the minister can be said to be a person of great ability, a person of character and somebody who cares profoundly about this province. It was my decision and my thought that, having made the mistake she made and having clearly indicated

that she was sorry for it and gone through the entire process, that, if I may say so, is the way in which we have decided to approach it.

**Mrs McLeod:** This has absolutely nothing to do with unfounded allegations that are made across the floor of the House. The minister has clearly made and has acknowledged making a mistake. What she did was clearly unacceptable for somebody holding responsibilities as a minister of the crown, and it clearly warranted her resignation. By failing to demand the minister's resignation and by forcing her to justify on a continuous basis why she has not resigned, the Premier has placed her in the impossible position of defending the indefensible. In the course of her doing this, the minister's credibility and therefore her ability to do her job as minister have been seriously eroded. She has been forced to present as an argument justifying her failure to resign that she is apparently considered to be or considers herself to be indispensable to the government. Would the Premier not agree that the damage done now to the minister's credibility and therefore to her ability to carry out her responsibilities as a minister of the crown is sufficient now, and still, to merit her resignation?

**Hon Mr Rae:** No.

**Mrs McLeod:** Then I would raise another aspect of the problem which continues to concern us. On March 18, less than a week after the minister appeared before the legislative committee, she told the Sudbury Star, apparently in response to concerns that some members of her constituency no longer trust her: "I'm the local MPP. If they don't want to deal with me, they can see how far they get."

Is this the way this government operates? Surely the Premier must realize that the message that has been transmitted by his inaction in this matter is that anyone who criticizes his government will not be heard. If that is not the message this government wants to send out, isn't the minister's statement to the Sudbury Star yet another indefensible action which would justify more than ever her stepping down? I would ask the Premier, in the light of the minister's most recent indiscretion, how he can justify in his own mind keeping her in his cabinet?

**Hon Mr Rae:** Let me respond to that, because I was asked that question yesterday by the member for St George-St David. I must say I've developed a habit, after listening to questions from members, of wanting to get a handle on exactly what was said, so I have a transcript of the interview which was given and which I will read from.

Wheeler is apparently the person commenting, saying, "Martel's comments which sparked the inquiry dealt with a Sudbury doctor and the alleged leak of confidential billing information," which allegation, I would add parenthetically, we know to be completely untrue. Listen to this: "When asked how the controversy has affected her relationship with doctors, Martel says she is open to discussion."

Following this is the full quotation. I will say, wanting to give the full benefit to the Leader of the Opposition, that perhaps she's not seen the full quotation, because I'm sure if she'd seen it she would have read it to the House. "Martel: There are important health care issues. People



can make a choice. They can refuse to deal with me, and I'm their local MPP, and they can see how far they get from there, or they can try and deal with me and we can try and work on these issues together. And that's a personal choice that people are going to have to make."

If you are trying to take a partial quotation and make the allegation that in any way, shape or form the member for Sudbury East is even suggesting that she would deal with people in a way that was other than evenhanded, I think you're being very unfair in your attributions and in the way in which you've handled the quotation which I've just read to you.

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** My question is for the Premier. Premier, we know the Minister of Northern Development believes she broke your guidelines. Do you think she broke them, yes or no?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I think it's quite clear that the minister regrets very much what took place and that she feels very strongly about that and very clearly about that.

**Mr Harnick:** Now we can see why there was no mention of integrity in the speech from the throne.

Premier, yesterday the member for St George-St David told this House that the Minister of Northern Development said: "I'm the local MPP. If they don't want to deal with me, they can see how far they get." Premier, does this sound like a person who understands what she's done and is remorseful? I appreciate what you've read, but it doesn't make it any better.

**Hon Mr Rae:** With great respect to the honourable member, I think I've replied to that question as it was asked by the Leader of the Opposition. When you put the remarks in the full context of what it is the member said, I think there is every indication on the part of the minister of a full willingness to work with all the citizens of Sudbury.

**Mr Harnick:** Premier, allowing an admitted liar to serve as a member of the crown is reprehensible. Do you believe that your integrity has been damaged by this?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I think I'll let the people of the province judge my integrity.

1410

#### ONTARIO HYDRO SPENDING

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** My question is to the Minister of Energy. Minister, yesterday I asked you about a \$750,000 contract that had not been tendered. It seems Ontario Hydro makes a habit of spending our tax dollars without shopping around. I have obtained purchase orders totalling \$7.4 million worth of computer software. In response to the freedom of information request I put in to receive the tender documents and details about this, Ontario Hydro wrote back to me and said, "These contracts were not tendered." They weren't tendered at all, therefore my FOI request to see the documents was in vain. Minister, if a \$7-million contract isn't tendered at Ontario Hydro, what is?

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and acting Minister of Energy):** As I said yesterday in response to the leader of the third party's question, this minister unfortunately doesn't keep track of

all of Hydro's day-to-day operations. The rules have been set out fairly clearly. The member has raised a question; I'm prepared to deal with Hydro in finding the answers for the member and I'll do that.

**Mr Harris:** It's you and your Premier who are bringing in the bill to give cabinet, the minister and the Premier total control over Hydro. It's you who put the sweetheart deal with your guy in place to run Hydro, so don't tell me now that it's hands-off. Who's in charge over there? We're facing hydro rates of 9% this year. We find out that the 9% is only because they're drawing down reserves. They haven't cut costs at all; it's really 11%, but they're going to pull money out of some reserve fund. Maybe Leslie Frost built it up; I don't know where that would have come from.

Nine per cent hikes: Ontario Hydro should be tightening its belt. Ontario Hydro should be looking at ways to cut costs. Awarding a \$7-million contract without going to tender is unfair, irresponsible and, I suggest to you, Minister, it is unacceptable. Now that you're in charge and supposedly in control, will you put a stop to this bureaucratic arrogance that we've seen over at Hydro, particularly since Mr Eliesen has been in charge?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** The leader of the third party should fully understand that it's the characterization put on things by the third party that has suggested that Bill 118 is intended to move total day-to-day control of Ontario Hydro to the Premier's office. That, as the member well knows, is not a reality.

As I've said a number of times, the member has raised a question. I don't have the answer. I will get an answer for him.

**Mr Harris:** It's not like there wouldn't have been lots of warning. These were pretty open, public, FOI requests some time ago.

The former Minister of Energy said in this House, "What we are trying to do here is ensure that Ontario Hydro deals with this government by the front door and not the back door." Can you tell us why, then, Ontario Hydro is dealing with business and contracts through the back door?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** I simply repeat that the member has raised a question about certain contracts of Ontario Hydro. I will get an answer for the House.

#### MINISTER'S COMMENTS

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** To the Premier: So many people in the province are failing to understand why the Premier will not adhere to the type of standards that he expected everybody else to adhere to and ask the Minister of Northern Development to retire from cabinet.

I did a little bit of research. Perhaps the reason that the Premier is unable to exact a high standard of conduct from the minister is because, in reviewing his record with respect to his statements about David Peterson at the beginning of the 1990 election, it was quite clear that the strategy of the New Democratic Party was to smear and call the then Premier a liar publicly and as many times as possible to call that person a liar.

In fact, the reason he cannot exact any standard from his colleagues in cabinet is because the member for Sudbury East is merely mimicking the activities of her leader as he was then in July 1990. Will the Premier tell us that the standards for membership in his cabinet require the members of his cabinet to do as he did, and that is to publicly smear anything they see in the way of their future political success?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I think the assumption of the member's question is quite unfair.

**Mr Elston:** There were so many people who have carried on political life in this province who felt at the time that for the member for York East, it was equally unfair, but it did neither stop him nor temper the manner in which he attacked publicly a very fine, distinguished politician in this province. Neither has the fact that somebody stands in this House and says she is sorry stopped any other person from carrying out the activity that she is guilty of, and that is smearing another private citizen in this province.

Will the Premier admit that until he apologizes for his public smearing campaign and requires also that his minister step aside from his cabinet, there will be no confidence in his either being fair or being apt to publicly carry on a government of the highest integrity in Ontario?

**Hon Mr Rae:** I would only say to the member for Bruce that I think all of us in public life recognize that in the cut and thrust of debate there are things that are said. The way in which politics is carried out is a matter of public record, and I would say to the honourable member that I think the assumption behind his question, as I've said, is quite an unfair one.

**Mr Elston:** No, no. I'm asking you, are you sorry?

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

1420

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

**Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing):** To the Minister of Labour: I am sure the minister recognizes the serious nature of the cross-border shopping problem. I suggest to the minister that it's a shame the swamp that he oversees doesn't share his concerns.

I have here a 1992 calendar of events. I refer the minister to May 1992. I wonder if the minister could explain to me why WCB paper and WCB bulletin boards are being used to encourage WCB staff to take their payroll tax money paid for by the businesses of Ontario for a three-day US shopping spree on May 16, 17 and 18.

**Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour):** I'd like to deal with the leader of the third party's question. Let me tell him first that I'm not aware of the bulletins he's talking about, but let me tell him also that I would do a very careful check of it before I accepted the information he's given me.

Two days ago in this House we had the leader of the third party tell us that he had documentation—let me quote it exactly—"on a claim which was awarded to a Niagara

Falls labourer in 1990. This individual claimed that the rubber boots he wore on the job had marked his ankles. These marks, he said, restricted potential job opportunities as an exotic dancer. The WCB agreed and awarded him \$1,125."

I want to tell you that the leader of the third party clearly has little sense of irony and, worse still, trivializes what was a legitimate claim. The claimant suffered from dermatitis as a result of wearing rubber boots. His doctor advised him to be off work for three to four weeks, and the claim was adjudicated and granted. He came back to work and at that point in time made the comment that the scars he'd already achieved on his ankles would probably prevent any advancement to other jobs such as, in jest, an exotic dancer. The WCB never dealt with the claim on that basis, which was exactly what the leader of the third party claimed. I'd suggest he get his information more correct.

**Mr Harris:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Before I give my supplementary, since the minister has given a statement in response to a question earlier asked, normally I would be allowed a supplementary on that. I would ask, Mr Speaker, if the supplementary you're expecting from me now is in response to the statement to a previously asked question or whether you now want my supplementary on the first question.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** To the leader of the third party, I certainly understand his alleged point of order. The rules provide that members may ask questions and that ministers have an opportunity to respond. The response of course is up to the minister. At this point, the member is being invited to pose a supplementary to the original question he placed.

**Mr Harris:** Thanks very much, Mr Speaker. I appreciate that.

Let me say to the minister by way of supplementary that I appreciate his quoting back the facts as I gave them and as I stand behind them. Now you have requoted them and put them into the record as to what the excuse was for the concern over the rubber boot affair. I think that your minister confirms I was right, the facts were the facts and that indeed was the basis, it appears to me, the claim was laid on.

I wonder if one of the pages would take over the calendar of events I alluded to. Also the minister might want to talk about the July one on WCB bulletin boards, WCB paper, WCB staff. It's Atlantic City. They can't wait for the casinos to come to Ontario. They can't wait to take their Ontario payroll tax money off down to Atlantic City. I will send both of these over to the minister, although I see his staff has provided him with one already.

Last year 882 retail businesses closed their doors. Most recently Beaver Canoe folded, putting 70 more men and women out of jobs in Metropolitan Toronto. Cross-border shopping is a major factor in many of these closings. With so many in this province who don't have a job, can you explain why your civil servants, the civil servants under your control, are helping to pour the Ontario economy down the drain?



**Hon Mr Mackenzie:** I notice in the material that's been sent over to me to date that the programs outlined are those of the staff association of the Workers' Compensation Board. I certainly will look into it and get back to the minister. We don't run the WCB directly. But I hope it is more accurate than the information he gave us in the last question he gave us in the House.

#### BRONTE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

**Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North):** My question today is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Minister, a recent proposal to transfer Bronte Creek Provincial Park to the Halton Region Conservation Authority has raised many concerns for many of my constituents and groups across the Halton region. For example, one of those groups, the Oakville and District Labour Council, has raised a concern of the transfer of the park in light of a proposal from the Burlington developers to build an office complex in the park.

Can the minister assure me and many of my constituents and groups across the Halton region who use this park regularly that the park and its services will not be affected?

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for native affairs):** I appreciate the member raising this. It is a very important issue. We have indeed had exploratory discussions with the Halton Region Conservation Authority over the possibility of transferring Bronte park. The detailed proposal will be shared with all the interested parties: OPSEU, the region of Halton, the local municipalities, as well as the interest groups. The objectives will be to protect the natural and cultural features of the park as well as to provide maximum job security.

This is a recreation-class park. As the member knows, the Halton Region Conservation Authority has a significant amount of experience in operating such recreational parks. It might be appropriate for the conservation authority to operate this park as a recreational facility, but the main emphasis will be to maintain the values of the park as well as the job security of the workers related. This proposed matter will be dealt with in detail with all of the interested parties before any final decision is made.

**Mr Duignan:** Minister, in light of your reply here today, has the minister made any efforts to contact groups such as the labour council to outline all the items or make them understand what you have raised in the House here today?

**Hon Mr Wildman:** I don't believe the labour council is one of the groups that has been directly involved in the consultations to date. But at the suggestion of the member, I will ensure they are included and be part of the discussions before any final decisions are made.

#### MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Orlino):** My question is to the Premier. Many people in this province and in this House remember when the Premier used to have standards. They also remember when he had principles as the Leader of the Opposition and used to speak about questions of cynicism and integrity. I particularly remember June 28, 1989, when

the member for York South, as Leader of the Opposition, told this House: "The question of the integrity of the democratic process and the integrity of the electoral process is the first question in politics...it is at the foundation of everything else a government does." What has happened since that time to change his views?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** My views have not changed at all on that.

**Mrs Caplan:** In light of that extraordinary answer, I would say to him that the people of this province are even more cynical and confused today because his words do not match his actions. Just this morning I had a conversation with a resident of North York who said to me: "Tell him it is important that he act to show that he understands how important public trust is and especially, as leader of the government, that he set a standard in this province the people of the province will respect."

By refusing to take action, the Premier has demonstrated contempt of that public trust and has increased the cynicism and concern the public has about integrity in this place. I say to the Premier, how can you then, in light of your answers, justify your lack of action in accepting the standard of conduct from your minister today?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member may not agree with the action taken but she cannot argue that there's been no action taken. In response to questions and allegations that were made and, if I may say so, certainly shouted out by her along with a number of others with respect to all kinds of allegations that were being made, this government agreed to establish a committee. The member for Mississauga North was asked to be the Chairman of the committee. It interviewed 21 witnesses over 15 days of hearings, and as a result of that, nothing, none of the allegations that were made have proved to be substantiated with regard to the fundamental question of whether or not the minister and other ministers had misused confidential information. With regard to that allegation the committee came up with nothing. In the words of the member for Renfrew North, "There was no smoking gun."

1430

#### GAME AND FISH ACT

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Mr Minister, Ontario's growing deer farming industry is worried that it's being legislated out of business by your colleague the Minister of Natural Resources. Can you, as Minister of Agriculture and Food, assure us today that you support deer farming as a legitimate farming industry and that you will maintain that particular segment of agriculture within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food?

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** The member refers to some legislation that is being handled by the Minister of Natural Resources. It might be more appropriate for him to give his response.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Does the member have a supplementary? Sorry, the Minister of Natural Resources.

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for native affairs):** The question is of great importance and I know the agricultural industry is concerned about the changes proposed in Bill 162. He will know the proposals in Bill 162 reflect the recommendations of the wildlife strategy, which was the result of widespread consultation across the province, beginning before the change of government and involving representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

The concern is around whether or not we should allow for game farming involving species that are native to Ontario, as opposed to exotic species, and questions about how we deal with disease and control to ensure that any effects of game farming are not adverse to the native species in the wild. These are very important issues and I would be happy to consult with the member and representatives of the agricultural industry about how Bill 162 can meet its ends while ensuring we protect native species in this province.

**Mr Villeneuve:** Thank you for enlightening us to some degree on this, but to the Minister of Natural Resources, the deer farming industry will definitely be out of this province as soon as you bring in Bill 162, because it will declare those animals as animals of the wild and they will be returned to the wild or to the slaughterhouses. I am told by people within the industry close to Quebec that they will be long gone into another province as soon as Bill 162 comes into effect. Does the minister plan to amend this legislation to at least allow them to continue production, or are you going to do like other businesses, chase them out of Ontario?

**Hon Mr Wildman:** The member should know that under Bill 162 the raising and keeping of non-native species such as red deer and fallow deer would not be prohibited, so there are options that are available to the industry. What is of concern is native species, and there are options that are available for deer farmers. I hope they will be able to adapt and I am sure the Minister of Agriculture and Food would want to encourage them in their enterprise.

#### NON-UTILITY GENERATION

**Mr Martin:** Yesterday was a very important day in the community of Sault Ste Marie in that the workers at Algoma Steel voted overwhelmingly to give of their pay packet so that company could be saved and given a future.

I ask a question of the Minister of Energy which is related to the further economic growth of Sault Ste Marie, and it has to do with the cogeneration plant which is being negotiated at the moment as a diversifying initiative that will help the community of Sault Ste Marie to better its economy and take control of its future. My question to the minister is, what is the status of the proposed Great Lakes Power cogeneration plant in Sault Ste Marie?

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and acting Minister of Energy):** As I believe the member knows, in December Ontario Hydro brought the negotiations around non-utility generation to a halt for a moment while it was awaiting its report on a strategy around non-utility generators. When that report was tabled on February 7, Ontario Hydro reopened negotiations with

13 of the non-utility generation proposals, including the one in the Sault, and those negotiations are ongoing presently. We are advised that they are fairly well along in those negotiations.

**Mr Martin:** As you are aware, Mr Minister, the impact of this plant will be substantial for our community, especially if you take into consideration the immediate relief it will offer St Marys Paper by way of its energy needs and the cost reduction there.

It is also important to know that this is an all-private-sector investment. The cogenerational plant is very important, an issue of some magnitude to my constituents, and we're anxious for a positive response. I know you mentioned that in time we will have an answer. I was wondering if you could be more specific, because we are all waiting very patiently at the moment and would like some further news of that sort.

**Hon Mr Charlton:** Unfortunately I can't give the member a precise date. These are negotiations that are ongoing between Ontario Hydro and the proponents in Sault Ste Marie, but I could say that the decision to reopen the negotiations in this case was made for a number of very important reasons.

First, the proposal in the Sault already meets Ontario Hydro's efficiency guidelines and is one of the few projects that was as good in that respect. In these negotiations, Hydro is also taking into account the economic circumstances in the community. So both of those factors bode well for the negotiations, and the member should know that we expect a conclusion of the negotiations some time this spring.

#### MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** My question is to the Premier. It concerns the integrity and the standard of conduct of his government. Premier, I think you would agree that one of the most important functions you carry out as Premier is in selection of the members of your cabinet, of the executive council of the province of Ontario, and that the judgement you exercise in doing that is very important not only for those of us in the House, but for the people in the province to clearly understand.

Would you not agree, then, Mr Premier, that the message to be taken from this whole matter involving the Minister of Northern Development is that, first, it is acceptable conduct for a member of your cabinet to lie and to admit to lying; second, it is acceptable conduct to impugn the integrity of a private person in a public place; third, it is acceptable conduct to offer an apology but to continue to state that faced with similar circumstances, that cabinet minister might conduct herself in exactly the same fashion? Mr Premier, does that not describe your standards and your expectations?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier, President of the Executive Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** No, I don't think it does fairly describe either my standards or expectations or the way in which this government has conducted itself.



**Mr Beer:** The answers the Premier has given this afternoon, yesterday and in December to this whole issue are simply not credible, because what they reveal is an absence of real and meaningful standards. Premier, surely you would agree, as you go about this province, as all of us do, that the public increasingly views politicians and our political system with deepening cynicism. This sordid affair, if it does anything at all, only serves to further the erosion of public confidence in our democratic and political system.

Mr Premier, the facts are clear; they are very simple and straightforward. Would you not agree that the only course of action for you to take following the committee's report and the admission by the minister that she has lied is that you now request her resignation?

**Hon Mr Rae:** Having spent many years in opposition on the other side, I can say to the honourable member that I understand the question and the tone of the question, but I want him to perhaps reflect. I think the public judges all of us. I think they judge the questions and the allegations as well as the answers. I think they judge the conduct of all members, all ministers and all leaders. That is a judgement which I am certainly prepared and want very much to live by.

**Mr Beer:** Mr Speaker, on a point of order: There were no allegations in my question; they were facts.

1440

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The government says it's considering the establishment of casinos and video lottery terminals in Ontario. It has been widely reported that the Minister of Tourism and Recreation supports casinos and VLTs in Ontario. What impact studies has the minister done to determine the impact his video lotteries and casinos will have on Ontario's recreation groups, service clubs, horse racing, churches, charities and our crime rate?

**Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation):** As far as having casinos or VLTs in the province is concerned, or any of the other suggestions the member has made, that decision has not been made yet. We've had a lot of discussions with a lot of different groups on impacts and how and whom it would affect. We continue to look at these avenues and to have discussions with groups to see what the impact would be and what considerations we could make for these groups.

**Mr Arnott:** It's very clear this minister does not understand the full extent of his responsibilities to the people of Ontario. If his proposal to establish government-run gambling casinos in Ontario is adopted by this government, hundreds of recreation groups and teams, service clubs and others will be the losers.

Recently recreation clubs numbering in the thousands in this province were told by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations that they can no longer raise money through raffles, lotteries and bingos as they have in the past to offset their costs and keep their participation rates as low as possible. It appears the government is planning

to go ahead with casinos, and just like the godfather, it wants to give the opposition and the competition an offer they can't refuse.

As the advocate for recreation in Ontario, what is the minister going to do to ensure that thousands of recreation groups, such as the Oakville Blades junior hockey team and the Arthur Snowblazers snowmobile club, which rely on fund-raising, will continue to be able to exist?

**Hon Mr North:** I certainly advocate recreation in this province: hockey teams, baseball teams, snowmobile clubs, all the groups.

**Interjection:** Name them all.

**Hon Mr North:** Name any group you like.

My job is to advocate that they continue to exist in this province. The suggestion that they won't exist in the province in the future is a suggestion the member makes and is not one I would hold. We'll continue to do the fine work we do in recreation in this province. We will continue to advocate all that can be advocated for those groups.

I certainly understand that there is a need—

**Mr Tilson:** You like your job. What else do you like? We know you like your job.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Hon Mr North:** You asked the question. Did you want an answer? I am saying we understand there are charities in this province. We understand the value of charities in this province. We understand the value of recreation in this province. We'll continue to advocate all those things. We do it through the Trillium Foundation. We support charities in a big way through the Trillium Foundation, and we support capital expenditures on recreation in this province, the brand-new fresh approach program. I think we're not doing too badly considering the dollars we have to do it with.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. I represent a riding with a large degree of high-technology industry, a number of plants that rely upon communication strategy, plants such as Andrew Antenna and Croven Crystals, which are essential to the communications strategy throughout our country and as part of our government's trust towards a new industrial strategy for this province in the abandonment that we have been faced with from the federal government. I want to know from the minister what plans she has undertaken, what efforts she has under way, in terms of developing a new telecommunications strategy.

**Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications):** Actually, I'm very pleased to answer the question.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** This comes as a total surprise.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** It comes as a total surprise. You're absolutely right. I am so pleased that he has come to me and said, "I'd like to ask you a question."

In fact there has been no telecommunications policy in the last 20 years. I am very pleased that the ministry has put forth a new telecommunications advisory group. We want to recognize that Ontario can be a lead in the new telecommunications industrial sector.

In the last decade telecommunications has evolved from the plain old telephone service to a dynamic enabling technology. For business individuals, telecommunication applications like telemedicine and electronic data interchange are impossible without modern telecommunications, and they hold a promise for an enriched quality of life.

I have established an advisory committee to provide guidance on developing a telecommunications strategy for the province. The advisory committee's membership includes both industry participants such as labour, equipment and service suppliers as well as user groups, which include residential, business and institutional—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** I certainly would, Mr Speaker. The committee is expected to present a report by the end of June.

**Mr White:** If I could place a supplementary with the indulgence of the opposition, I'd be very interested to know: With that kind of a framework, with those kinds of people involved, what is going to be the cost of this process? How are we going to be able to afford it?

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** Actually, we have a vision statement. We have four goals. We have a ministry advisory committee set up, as I have indicated, with partnerships with business, partnerships with the communities and partnerships with industry.

I would like to point out that we also have subworking groups inviting people to participate in those. It's quite a large undertaking. A number of very important people are taking part. I wanted to mention those things because monies for the implementation of the advisory committee will come from within existing ministry budgets, and to date there has been no new money allocation.

I would also like to point out that the extent to which this initiative has been supported by many interests can be seen in its composition. All participants are volunteering their time and effort at no cost to the taxpayers of Ontario.

#### MINISTERIAL CONDUCT

**Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West):** My question was for the Premier. We were told that he was here until 2:50, and unfortunately he left early.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** He's meeting with the Premier of Manitoba.

**Mr Mahoney:** We were told, Mr House leader, that he'd be here.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Is there someone else to whom you wish to direct your question?

**Mr Mahoney:** He left 10 minutes early, so it's with some regret that I will have to direct my question to the Minister of Northern Development. I say it's with regret

because the questions we're putting forward, in my view, have less to do with her and her conduct than they do with the Premier and his standards.

But it's perhaps possible, Minister, that you can give me an answer, give this House an answer, with regard to the fact that you've been involved, obviously, deeply with the Premier in the discussion of those standards.

Every editorial board in the province, Minister, has called for your resignation. A riding association in Ottawa, I'm told, of your own party has called for your resignation; 70% of Ontarians believe, as a result of the polls that have been taken, that you should step down. The real tragedy is that I'm afraid to say your career has been destroyed. You were possibly a future leader of the party, in my view, at one time, a leading light, someone who I thought had great potential, and I think that's all been destroyed. We've seen ministers fired because supposedly they appeared in a newspaper, and yet we know that's not the real reason. We've seen members kicked out as chairs of committees for supposed reasons that we know are not true.

1450

**The Speaker:** Does the member have a question?

**Mr Mahoney:** Can you tell us, after your discussions with the Premier, what is the real reason you are not resigning? What is the real reason that the Premier has either not accepted your offered resignation or not asked you to offer your resignation? Please help us understand.

**Hon Shelley Martel (Minister of Northern Development and Mines):** Let me go through some of the comments I made at the hearings in response to a very similar question. When this incident occurred in December of last year I seriously thought about resigning. I went back and forth with that thought in my mind. I thought of many things: the kind of day I had, the encounters I had during that day, the work I was trying to do in the riding to resolve this issue, the work I have done as an MPP in Sudbury East and as well the work I have tried to do as Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Bearing all that in mind, I made a judgement call to remain in this cabinet. At the end of the day, in the next election, it will be the people in the riding of Sudbury East who will judge me on that.

**Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights):** It's not your call to make.

**Mr Mahoney:** As my colleague the member for Wilson Heights has just said, it's not really, Minister, your call to make. Frankly this should be, I say again, Mr Speaker, directed to the person who is ultimately responsible for this decision. I guess the difficulty we're having is that no one believes either your explanation or the Premier's. He has said, even today in answer to questions from my colleagues, that he has not changed his standards. He has said he believes that a minister of the crown should be open to the highest scrutiny.

Minister, if no one believes your explanation, we're searching for another reason, some way to help us and the public. I'm not just saying "us" here; I think anyone would have to admit, as the result of the polls and the media and what everyone has said, that no one outside of the trained



seals believes the explanations that are being put forward. Minister, I think it's a tragedy; I really sincerely do, and I think you know I think that.

I would like you to give us either the real reason or to admit that at the very least you have damaged the credibility of the government, that you have violated the Premier's guidelines and that you have put the Premier in an unbelievable position. I can only assume—

**The Speaker:** Would the member conclude his supplementary.

**Mr Mahoney:** —it is due to some former commitment or some other obligation that he's sticking by you. Maybe you could tell us what that other obligation is, Minister.

**Hon Miss Martel:** I am sorry if the member or other members of the House do not accept the explanation I have given or do not want to believe it, but I can say very clearly to the member and to other members in this House, as I repeated in committee, that the explanation I have given is the correct one; there is nothing else I can add. What happened is how I have explained it.

#### LEGAL SERVICES

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** My question is to the Attorney General. Mr Attorney General, is it your intention to charge sales tax on legal services after the next budget?

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** I do not collect sales taxes; the Treasurer collects sales taxes. The Treasurer will decide what taxes will be assessed and what tax changes may be made in Ontario. I really have no say in that.

**Mr Harnick:** Will the government be adopting a system of provincial public defender or will the government be continuing with the current system of legal aid?

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for native affairs):** Wait a minute, that's not a supplementary.

**Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing):** That's not a supplementary.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The Attorney General may answer if he wishes.

**Hon Mr Hampton:** I'm not sure what the issue of a public defender system has to do with whether or not sales tax would apply to lawyers' services. I gather there must be some connection in the member's head. I'll try my best to read his mind on this issue.

There has been no discussion anywhere in Ontario regarding the establishment of a public defender system. We have had a number of discussions with judges, with community legal clinics, with the criminal defence bar about the funding problems with respect to legal aid. I should say to you, so that the public will understand, that we have a real problem because the federal government refuses to live up to its responsibilities to fund legal aid, and further insists on offloading on to the provinces many of the matters dealing with immigration. It's causing a real cost

crunch for provinces across the country with respect to funding legal aid.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. For the interest of both the Attorney General and the member for Willowdale, the original question dealt with a matter of taxation on legal services, and hence I allowed the supplementary since it dealt with the comparison of two different types of delivery services of legal services.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** Before I call orders of the day, there is unanimous agreement among the three parties that the House will adjourn today at 4:30 pm and that even though we're adjourning at 4:30 pm it will be considered a full sitting day of the House for the purposes of the time allocation motion that will govern this afternoon's business.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Is that agreed? Agreed.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT, 1992

#### LOI DE 1992 SUR LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS

Consideration of Bill 143, An Act respecting the Management of Waste in the Greater Toronto Area and to amend the Environmental Protection Act / Projet de loi 143, Loi concernant la gestion des déchets dans la région du grand Toronto et modifiant la Loi sur la protection de l'environnement.

**The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Perhaps I should give some brief explanations of what took place during the winter adjournment on a motion that was introduced by the member for Windsor-Riverside.

It was ordered that the standing committee on social development shall meet to consider Bill 143, An Act respecting the Management of Waste in the Greater Toronto Area and to amend the Environmental Protection Act, during the winter adjournment in accordance with a schedule of meeting dates to be agreed to by the three party whips and to be tabled with the Clerk of the assembly at a later date, as follows: three weeks to receive public submissions at televised meetings in Toronto, one week to receive public submissions at meetings outside of Toronto and one week for clause-by-clause consideration of the bill at televised meetings in Toronto.

#### 1500

Two sessional days—this is the first one—shall be allotted to further consideration of the bill in the committee of the whole House. All amendments to the bill proposed to be moved shall be filed with the Clerk of the assembly by 4 pm on the last sessional day, the second day, whenever that day is called by the government, on which the bill is considered in committee of the whole House.

Any divisions required during clause-by-clause consideration of the bill in committee of the whole House shall

be deferred until 5:45 pm on the last sessional day, the second day. I would remind members that if you wish to divide on any sections or on any amendments, you must stand and there must be five people altogether standing. If only one person stands, this is not sufficient. You need five people to defer the vote at 5:45 on the last sessional day, the second day, whatever that day, as chosen by the government.

At 5:45 pm on that sessional day, the second day, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendments thereto and report the bill to the House. Any divisions required shall be deferred until all remaining questions have been put. The members are called in once and all deferred divisions are taken in succession.

**Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold):** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I'm reluctant to raise this matter because I know the concern we all might have about me doing so. Brandon Sheppard, one of our new pages, is the grandson of Howard Sheppard, who was a member of this House, and he's being visited today by his grandparents from West Virginia and his brothers, Tyler-Blair and Layne. We're real pleased to have them here. They've conducted themselves with some patience and a decorum which was absent from the House during question period. It's real nice to have them here.

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** On a point of order, Mr Chair: On the point of order the member for Welland-Thorold raises, I think most members of the House would know, and the Speaker and the Chairman would rule, he is clearly out of order, but it is nice to have heard that a former member's grandchildren are here in the House. We all know, whether this point is in order or not, it's nice to be able to acknowledge generations of young people who are interested in the proceedings of the House.

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I would only say, having been a close friend of the former member for Northumberland Howard Sheppard, he would be most upset to know his grandson sat on the wrong side of the House.

**The Chair:** I wish a happy Easter to everyone.

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** Before we begin debate and get into committee of the whole House, I beg permission of the Chair to move to the front row and allow some staff to come up.

**The Chair:** Yes, please do so. We can now start. Are there any questions, comments or amendments, and if so, to which sections of the bill?

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** I have tabled a number of amendments. It was my understanding—perhaps the Chair could assist—that we would be going through the bill in sequence and would be referring to them as we went, section by section. I have tabled them. Some I will be referring to specifically as we proceed.

Others, depending on the debate that is engendered in this place, may or may not be moved.

My understanding was that there would be opening comments by the parliamentary assistant. I see the minister is now here. Perhaps we can find out some indication whether there will be opening comments or whether we'll proceed right to the substance of the bill. I don't know; I'm just waiting. The minister is indicating that we're in your hands, Mr Chairman. I just wanted to afford that opportunity. It was my understanding that would take place before we got into the amendments.

**The Chair:** The member for Brampton North, you have an amendment.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** Mr Chair, the member for Brampton North said it was his understanding there would be opening comments from the government. I would be pleased to introduce the report of the committee and just make some comments.

**The Chair:** No, there are no opening comments. We start immediately with the amendments. Would you please introduce your amendment.

Section 1:

**Mr McClelland:** My first amendment is particularly to section 1. My amendment is tabled with you and I will explain it subsequently, Mr Chairman.

**The Chair:** Mr McClelland moves that section 1 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted:

"Definition

"1. In this part and part II, 'corporation' means the corporation continued by section 2."

**Mr McClelland:** This amendment was in fact put forward in committee. I don't want to revisit every amendment I put forward in committee, but I want to make a couple of comments about the amendments put forward. I think this is perhaps indicative or useful in terms of the frustration the opposition members, and indeed the vast majority of people I have spoken to who presented before the committee, felt.

Some 200-plus delegations appeared before the committee, Mr Chairman. You indicated the process by which that took place, as we held hearings both here, in the Amethyst Room, and subsequently in various parts of the province. I think one of the tell-tale signs in terms of what took place in committee as we went through clause-by-clause in that latter week was the fact that literally dozens of amendments were brought forward, both by the official opposition and the third party, and one was accepted.

One might argue, and I suppose if I were on the government side my quick quip and off-the-cuff response would be, "That was because your amendments weren't worthy of support." That's the decision of the government, and so be it. But I hasten to add this: The vast majority, if not indeed all those amendments, were crafted, albeit by our party and submitted by myself as critic, in response to criticisms, some of them very constructive, I might add, brought by people from across the province who said, "We have some difficulties with this bill and we want to have



some changes made to at least make it redeemable, if that's possible."

1510

One of the aspects of the bill that I think sets the tone is the wording right in the first section. We wanted to make it more expansive than the definition as it now reads. We wanted to change it to the Ontario Waste Authority, because it's our view that this bill has implications that are far-reaching, that not only impact the greater Toronto area but will have an impact right across the province.

I don't think it is coincidental that this bill was introduced in the House during municipal elections, and we've been through that many times. But the fact of the matter is that the bill was introduced during municipal elections, when people across this province didn't have an opportunity to really respond to it, particularly those people who are ultimately charged with responsibility for waste management in their communities, many members of municipal councils. They expressed those concerns both officially through AMO, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, many members of that organization, and many individual elected municipal officials and mayors from across the province as well.

We have begun to realize more and more even in the past few weeks—I think of the situation in Windsor by way of example, with the Maidstone dump and what's happening there, the tremendous anxiety that is being created in that community and with the municipal council there. I believe, and I think the writing's clearly on the wall, that the impact of Bill 143 will be felt right across the province. What we've done basically with Bill 143 is changed the rules in terms of the way we operate with waste management in Ontario. We've certainly done it for Toronto, which has the greatest population and is certainly the greatest producer of waste in the province. It stands to follow, and I think it's a logical progression, that this will be the portent of things to come right across the province.

Accordingly, we have moved this amendment, notwithstanding the fact that it was not accepted in committee. We wanted to bring it up again because we believe all the people of Ontario will be dramatically affected by Bill 143 and the Interim Waste Authority. Indeed we seek to drop the word "Interim" because there's no way that anybody who realistically has any measure of what's taking place believes this will be interim. In our view, the reality is—and I'm sure there will be some contrary message—that this is seen as a foot in the door and a changing of the rules. It will not be interim. So the amendment we have moved again is to recognize that reality, to recognize that the implications of Bill 143 are not just for the greater Toronto area but for the entire province. That's the rationale behind this amendment.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I would like to comment on the remarks of the member for Brampton North and on this amendment, which we are not prepared to accept at this stage, as we were not prepared to accept it in committee.

I think the words we've heard from the member are very telling. The member says he wants to change the word to "corporation" so that all of the people of Ontario

can be impacted by this bill. All of the people of Ontario are impacted by this bill. All of the people of Ontario are assured by the passage of this bill that the waste that is generated within the greater Toronto area will be disposed of within the greater Toronto area.

I know that under the previous administration and with the support of the member, it was the intent that waste from the greater Toronto area could go perhaps to Kirkland Lake, perhaps to Marmora, perhaps to Plympton, perhaps to Cayuga or to places all around this province. We heard from the municipalities and from the environmental groups and from the citizens that they thought the municipalities and the people of the greater Toronto area had a responsibility to look after their own waste. That is why this legislation is before us, that is what this legislation is designed to ensure and that is why we cannot accept the amendment that is put forward today.

I want also to comment briefly on the remarks made that this ought not to be an "Interim" Waste Authority. It is very deliberately called an Interim Waste Authority because historically in this province the responsibility for waste management has lain with the municipalities, whether they are the lower tier or the upper tier, and, in the GTA, with the regions.

There had been a bringing together of those regions under an organization known as SWISC, the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee, to find a cooperative solution somewhere out of the GTA for the GTA waste. We did not allow that process to continue and have instead put in place an Interim Waste Authority with a mandate to find disposal sites within the GTA, but it is certainly our desire that the responsibility for the ultimate disposal of that waste would eventually return to the regions, which traditionally, historically and legislatively have had that responsibility. The word "interim" in the title of the Interim Waste Authority is a very deliberate signal that it is not the intention of the province, it is not the desire of the province, to retain that responsibility; it is the intent of the province to ensure an environmental solution to the crisis that has plagued the greater Toronto area for well over a decade now.

But having made the tough decisions, having taken the heat, and knowing that there is more heat to be taken when the Interim Waste Authority moves forward to select preferred sites within the regions, it is certainly the intention of my ministry to work cooperatively with the regions to devise a comprehensive waste management system for the GTA that will allow the regions to reassert their traditional responsibilities and to take their traditional responsibilities in being the agency or the element or the level of government that has the responsibility for waste management. That is why the amendments being put forward by the member for Brampton North cannot be accepted.

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** I wasn't on this committee, but I understand that some four weeks were spent by members of this Legislature listening to some 200 oral briefs, some 43 written briefs, travelling to at least four or five areas in this province. That has to come to an awful lot of money, probably \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000; more than that, perhaps. If only one amendment

was accepted by the government, why did we have the hearings? Why did we waste that money by travelling the province? Why did we receive 200 oral briefs? It appears as though the 200 people who appeared before the committee were not listened to. Surely that flies right in the face of democracy. It flies right in the face of tax dollars out here, out in the—

**The Chair:** I would ask you to speak to the motion.

**Mr Callahan:** I am speaking to it, Mr Chairman. I am trying to find out—

**The Chair:** Read the motion; I want you to speak to the motion.

**Mr Callahan:** I'm trying to find out why the government is not prepared to accept any of the amendments that were put forward in committee or the amendment my colleague from Brampton North is putting forward. They're only accepting one amendment, after they went through all this trouble and all this expense. I would like to know how the minister justifies that on the basis of supposedly listening to the public, or did we in fact just blow the money at a time when we can ne'er do well to do that, when food banks need money and other people who are poor in this province are starving to death. Minister, perhaps you can explain that to me. What was the purpose of going out on public hearings? What was the purpose of uselessly spending taxpayers' dollars if you are not prepared to accept any of the amendments, either in committee or now, and you only accepted one minor amendment to the bill?

**The Chair:** Order, please. I think the motion is very clear, and you haven't addressed that motion. If the minister or the parliamentary assistant want to answer your question, they are free to do so, but the motion is dealing with the meaning of the corporation.

**Mr O'Connor:** It's very important to respond to some of the concerns the member opposite has raised. I don't feel that any time a legislative committee of this Legislature travels the province or has people come to Toronto to meet with a committee to make and discuss legislation before us is ever a waste of time. I think any time a person is welcomed to this Legislature to make amendments is very important, and from that we can take a lot of important information and facts, and things that can improve the bill should be included.

I'd like to direct the member opposite to take a look underneath his bench right now. You can see that we've got a reprinted bill with all the amendments made because of the committee process and all the amendments made by the social development committee. If you take a look, there are about two dozen of them, 24 amendments, quite a few of them, and they're not just cosmetic; they're very important. I direct that to the attention of the member and say that when we do meet with the people of Ontario it's very important.

1520

**The Chair:** I won't allow any more debate on a general topic. The topic is the amendment that was introduced by the member for Brampton North. I will only accept that type of discussion.

**Mr McClelland:** I want to respond briefly to some comments made by the minister. The fact of the matter is, Minister, that I'm not seeking to make the bill apply to the people of Ontario; I am making it reflect reality.

You have said, Minister, that this bill will at the end of the day ensure that the greater Toronto area deals with its own waste. We'll get into this a bit later on as we get to the specific section of the bill. That also says that it leaves you with the authority to order waste to be moved into another jurisdiction for up to a period of five years.

The fact of the matter is that the bill has potential to impact people right across the province. I'm not trying to make it impact people across the province, as you suggested. I'm trying to reflect that reality.

Minister, you talk about interim authority. The reality is that you're talking about a 20-year site. A 20-year site in your view may be interim. A 20-year site for the people in Durham who are going to have a site located on their farm or in their area, or the people in Brampton, or the people in York, who will almost certainly now receive Metro's waste or have an extension of 20 years, would hardly be deemed to be interim.

Twenty years may be interim for you, but I'll tell you this, Minister: My experience certainly has been, and I'm sure yours has been, that ratepayers, people who own land, concerned citizens, don't regard 20 years as an interim period, particularly as it impacts their property and their lives.

That is why, in response to your comments, Minister, we are not trying to change the impact of the bill; we're in fact trying to reflect reality. The reality is that it is not interim. It's in no way interim for the people at Britannia. It's in no way interim for the people in Keele Valley. It is in no way interim for the potential site in Peel. It is in no way interim for Durham. It's not interim. It's long-term: 20 years. It's going to dramatically affect people's property values and affect their lives. It is not interim.

Again, I say we're not trying to make it expansive across Ontario. It already applies in Ontario right across the province, and we're trying to reflect that reality.

**The Chair:** Are there any further questions on the amendment to section 1?

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** I will have a question for the minister on her explanation, which I believe does not make much sense to me and to the issue that is before us.

One of the concerns I have, as I've expressed a number of times in this House, is that if people of the province and my constituents in Oriole are going to have confidence in the government, the words have to fit the actions. As my leader, the member for Fort William, has noted on a number of occasions as leader of the official opposition, "From this government the words don't match the music." In fact, the title "Interim Waste Authority" is an example of exactly what she's referring to: 20 years is not "interim."

It is extremely important that the people of this province know and understand that the Minister of the Environment is taking away from the municipalities in the region of the greater Toronto area the responsibility for the establishment



of dump sites in the greater Toronto area, which will have a 20-year impact.

My question to the minister is, in light of the fact that there is nothing interim about the Interim Waste Authority and that the amendment posed by my colleague would in fact describe much better what you're doing, and because I know she agrees with me that it's important that the words and the actions match, will she consider the amendment to give confidence to the people so that they will really understand what this waste authority is all about?

**The Chair:** Order, please. Let me read the amendment; let me read the motion.

"Mr McClelland moves that section 1 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted:

"Definition

"1. In this part and part II, "corporation" means the corporation continued by section 2."

The debate has to be on that motion, nothing else—strictly on that motion. Are there any further questions or comments? If not, is it the pleasure of the committee that the motion carry?

**Interjection:** No.

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** On a point of order, Mr Chair: On section 1, I have an amendment to move with respect to the whole of the bill.

**The Chair:** We're dealing with this one here; we're dealing with section 1.

**Mr Turnbull:** It deals with sections 1 through 4, the whole of the bill.

**The Chair:** We'll deal with this one first.

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

**The Chair:** The member for York Mills has an amendment to section 1.

**Mr Turnbull:** I move that the government, given that the Ministry of the Environment has not released their promised initiatives paper on the financing of the waste management system and that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has not released their promised paper on statutory authority regarding the waste management for Ontario municipalities, not proceed with the third reading of Bill 143 until the aforementioned papers have been released for consideration and consultation with Ontario municipalities.

**The Chair:** Have you distributed that amendment to other members? I don't have a copy. This is not a proper amendment.

**Mr Turnbull:** Would you direct me as to why this is not a proper amendment, Mr Chair?

**The Chair:** It does not refer to section 1 at all.

**Mr Turnbull:** It refers to the whole bill, which includes section 1.

**The Chair:** It does not deal with section 1 specifically.

**Mr Turnbull:** Would you guide me as to when I might move this amendment then?

1530

**The Chair:** The member for York Mills, the amendment you have presented is a reasoned amendment. This can only be presented when third reading is introduced in the House.

**Mr Turnbull:** Very well.

**The Chair:** Shall section 1 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Section 1 agreed to.

Section 2:

**The Chair:** Are there any amendments to section 2?

**Mr McClelland:** I had tabled a couple of amendments to section 2. Going back a bit just by way of explanation—I'm sure this is entirely confusing to people who may be watching—my first amendment would have worked in tandem with proposed amendments for section 2 in terms of changing the name to the Ontario Waste Authority and so forth. Hence the first amendment you read that referred to the corporation would have a meaning as set out later in the bill, specifically in section 2, would be continued and go in tandem with that. But inasmuch as the government has indicated that it is certainly not going to accept that amendment and has voted down the amendment to section 1, the amendments on section 2 and section 2.1 that I had moved are withdrawn accordingly.

I do have another amendment, or an addition. I think it will pick up the intent of the amendment my colleague the member for York Mills proposed to put forward, which you moved out of order. I am sure he may want to speak to it. My proposed amendment would be in addition.

**The Chair:** Mr McClelland moves that the bill be amended by adding the following section:

"Quarterly report

"2.1(1) Within four months after the coming into force of this act, and every four months afterwards, the corporation shall prepare a written report setting out descriptions of all the sites the corporation is considering as possible sites for landfill waste disposal sites.

"Idem

"(2) The corporation shall give a copy of the report to the Minister of the Environment and shall make copies of the report available to members of the public at no charge."

**Mrs Caplan:** I have some comments. I think this is a very important and thoughtful amendment that has been put forward by my colleague. I believe the people of this province have a right to know what sites are being considered. I was very disappointed when the Minister of the Environment and the parliamentary assistant repeatedly refused to acknowledge that there were lists or files or, available for the public today, a compendium of the sites that were being reviewed.

We knew, and we had information from the government House leader, that if this legislation had passed as the minister wanted, without public hearings and by the end of December, that list would have been released in January. I

think the minister is aware how important it is for the public to have access to that kind of information. By putting that requirement in the legislation, the public will be assured that every four months it will have open access to the kinds of deliberation and the sites that are being considered by the waste authority.

With the reprinting of this piece of legislation I know that some of the sections were renumbered and that it is sometimes very difficult for people in the public who are watching these hearings to follow exactly what sections we're going to be dealing with. But I think it's important that we try and explain, as we make comments on the proposed amendments, what intention the amendment is trying to achieve.

This quarterly reporting requirement is a very important one if the public is to be kept informed, particularly because under this new piece of legislation, rather than a publicly accountable body like a municipality or a regional government having responsibility and authority to act in the public interest—to inform the public, to hold public hearings in the search for a site for landfill in their regions—this responsibility is now being given to a waste authority called the Interim Waste Authority. It is not a publicly accountable body; it is accountable only to the Minister of the Environment. Therefore, it is the minister's responsibility to make sure this information is forthcoming to the province.

Unless there is a statutory obligation for those lists to be available, for a quarterly reporting to the public, our concern and the concern of my colleague from Brampton is that in fact the public will not have the information they need to make appropriate representations to the authority and to the Minister of the Environment who now has responsibility for waste disposal in the greater Toronto area.

I believe this amendment is not only appropriate; it is well thought out. The point he makes that this information should be made available to the public without charge I think is a very important one. My constituents in the riding of Oriole feel they are paying at least their fair share in taxes, and many of them feel they are paying higher taxes than is appropriate at this time in the midst of a recession. They are concerned, as government starts to offer more services, that they will either be further taxed or forced to pay through user charges.

I know that this government, in its reviews, has been musing about user fees and user charges and the Treasurer recently—in fact I have a newspaper article from the *Ottawa Citizen* today that says the Treasurer was very clear that he intends to raise taxes in his upcoming budget. What he said in the *Ottawa Citizen* is, “‘This is not some machiavellian attempt to raise people's fears about higher taxes and then come in with virtually none,’ Laughren told reporters.” So he is saying he's going to raise taxes. What this amendment would do in this legislation is to say: “We're paying enough in taxes. We want you to give us the information. You shouldn't charge us for it and we want to make sure we have access to the information we need so we will know what is going on in our communities.”

I very much support this legislation and I hope the minister will. I know that while she was in opposition she was very supportive of the public's right to know and the public's right to information, and I know she would want to assure the public that they would have this information on a regular basis by law and that they would have access to this information without cost.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I'd like to respond to this amendment by saying to the honourable member that she and I entirely agree that the public has to have information and be involved in the process of the selection of the sites that will be ultimate disposal sites for the regions of the greater Toronto area. But I would like to remind the member that the site search is being carried out by the Interim Waste Authority on the basis of the powers enshrined in Bill 143, the legislation we are debating here today.

I think it would be entirely inappropriate for the Interim Waste Authority to have continued its work in the development of a potential list of sites before that legislation was there. In fact I suspect that had the Interim Waste Authority gone ahead with the original schedule of the authority and published a list of potential sites for the greater Toronto area, the honourable member would have been one of the first on her feet to point out that there was no legislative authority for the Interim Waste Authority to exist or to carry on that process. That is why we instructed the Interim Waste Authority not to proceed with the work on developing the long list of potential sites once it became clear it was the wish of the Legislature that there be public hearings and consultation on Bill 143.

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When this legislation becomes the law of Ontario, the Interim Waste Authority will pick up where it left off last November and will proceed as quickly as possible to develop the long list of sites, which will then be refined on the basis of very specific environmental criteria down to a shorter list of sites, and from that to a preferred site. Once those preferred sites have been identified, then the environmental assessment process will continue and ultimately lead to a hearing and, we hope, an approval.

Having said that, I hope the honourable member will recollect that the Interim Waste Authority has already begun a very detailed and clear process of public consultation. They are committed in the draft approach and criteria for the ultimate disposal sites to the most extensive public consultation and involvement that I think has ever been undergone by a body looking for a landfill site.

In York region just last week, or maybe the week before, I was able to spend some time with the citizens consultation group that is working on refining the criteria and working with the Interim Waste Authority as it looks at what the criteria for site selection ought to be and the process that ought to be followed in the search in the regions of Metro and York. That process is not only well under way but has been committed to by the Interim Waste Authority in the meetings and consultations it has been having since last August.

To change direction now and enshrine in the legislation a quite different process of public consultation would, I



think, undermine what is turning out to be a very productive and constructive consultation that is under way under the auspices of the Interim Waste Authority, and for that reason we can't accept the amendment as proposed.

**Mr Turnbull:** The comments made by the minister just now are somewhat disingenuous. It's very clear that municipalities feel an important part of the process of evaluating the draft legislation is to understand the thinking of the ministry and the interim authority in terms of site selection and financing of these projects.

The fact that we were told in December that had we passed this bill we would have been in possession of those lists in January demonstrates very well that the lists were at a very late stage of preparation. In fact, in the brief period that I sat in on committee hearings, we had complete bafflegab from one of the Interim Waste Authority officials which very clearly indicated that while the list wasn't prepared, the sites were very well identified. Municipalities are saying, "Look, in order for us to be able to rationally evaluate this, we must understand where they are and we must understand the regulations in terms of financing."

The suggestion that we should have to wait until after the bill is passed is not reasonable. We know the work has been done. It had to have been done in order for them to be ready to distribute it in January. Here we are in the middle of April and we still don't have that information, yet municipalities are saying very clearly to the government that they need that piece of information so they can do their homework.

We know this bill was brought in at the time of municipal elections, when the local politicians' centre of attention was away from this. It doesn't do the government credit to bring this kind of important legislation forward, which has implications for the whole province, not just the greater Metro area, or the way this government plans to proceed, not only with waste elimination but also how it will overrule municipalities in its intentions as to how they are going to solve their own garbage problems.

**Mrs Caplan:** I would like to address to the minister the comments she made and I would say to her that she can't have it both ways. I don't think she's missed the point of what I was saying, but I'm distressed because I think what she has done and what she is saying could be misinterpreted by a number of people who are not aware of the situation.

Neither our critic for Environment nor myself as critic for the treasury board has ever raised the issue of the lack of legislative authority. Quite the contrary. In fact, the minister says on the one hand, "The work has begun, the process is in place and this Interim Waste Authority is committed to certain processes." Then, knowing full well there is a time allocation motion attached to this piece of legislation and knowing full well, as every member of this House knew back in December, that this legislation is going to be passed in this spring session, they stopped the one thing the public had an interest in, and that was the production of the list.

This NDP government does many things without legislative authority. As critic for the treasury board, I would point out to the minister that there is no legislative authority for the decision-making of your treasury board. We have yet to see a piece of legislation that would empower a new treasury board and give it a mandate and responsibility. There is the Management Board of Cabinet Act, there is the Legislative Assembly Act, but there is no new treasury board act. Yet we have not complained, we have not criticized. What we have said is that we understand you will organize things the way you feel you should in order to govern and make appropriate decisions.

You established an Interim Waste Authority, you gave it a mandate, you set it up. You've spent enormous dollars; a lot of money has been spent by the Interim Waste Authority. The one thing the opposition has requested is the list of the sites the public has a right to and is interested in, and you've responded by saying, "They can do everything else, but they can't do that until there's the legislative authority."

Minister, that is the kind of activity that breeds cynicism in the public mind. The municipal representatives know what you're doing. It is unbecoming of you, it is contrived, and it is of great concern to me that you would attempt to justify that kind of behaviour here in this House on the basis of "no legislative authority." That's absolute, utter nonsense.

The other point I wanted to make, when we discuss the style of government and the approach of this legislation, is that it is very appropriate, as you have no legislative authority, for this Legislature to determine what the process should be in giving the public information. For you to stand in your place and say, "We didn't produce the list because there's no legislative authority, but they've done all of this, they're committed to all of this, the work has all begun and it's now too late in the process to make any changes," belies the fact that we're here in the House debating a very important piece of legislation which there is still time to change.

You began this process in October by saying: "Here's my bill. I want it by Christmas. I want it without public hearings. I want it without delay." Public hearings were forced upon you. You then came to the public and said, "I'm willing to listen and I'm willing to make some changes." Today you stand in the House and say: "We're not going to make any changes. This process is already in place." You admit you have no legislative authority for the things you have done.

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**The Second Deputy Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Would the honourable member please address the items of interest.

**Mrs Caplan:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I'm very concerned, because the minister is walking away from her seat at this moment. It makes it very difficult for me to contain my frustration.

I spoke at length on this legislation during second reading and I was assured by the minister, through the public hearing process, that they would be willing to consider reasonable amendments. Here is an amendment clearly in

the public interest which requires only that the public be informed, mandates how that information will be dispensed and assures the public that it won't cost anything to get the lists and get the information they need.

The answer the minister just gave as she denied acceptance of this significant amendment I think puts her credibility on the line. I'd ask her to reconsider, because this is a very significant public interest amendment. I believe she will be severely criticized if she says no to this important amendment.

**Mr O'Connor:** I've listened intently to what the members opposite have had to say about public consultation. The minister referred to the draft document that was put out by the Interim Waste Authority. Right in it is the public consultation program they're following. It's laid out in quite a bit of detail. The members of the committee have had a chance to review it, but for those who haven't, it's really an incredible document, because it lays out exactly the process of communications. It talks about communications through the media, about liaison with local, provincial and regional politicians and staff. They put 1-800 numbers in every regional municipality. They did a lot of surveying. A lot of documentation had to go on after this document was put out, because they encouraged a lot of people to participate, they held meetings in all the regional municipalities, and from that they gathered a lot of information.

While the Interim Waste Authority had suspended its work in developing a list, it went a little further and had these public information meetings. They talked to people throughout the GTA, and the document that resulted was Revised Approach and Criteria, Steps 1 to 4; Supplementary Criteria, Steps 5 and 6. It's an incredible document. It shows how we're streamlining and making sure that we're going to exclude areas of agricultural importance, of biological and hydrogeological significance.

It was really an incredible process, and we did get the public involved. This question was raised in the committee, and we had an opportunity to hear the people from the Interim Waste Authority. They talked about the process and how they got as many people involved as possible. It's quite an incredible process, a very open process—and all that before it gets to an environmental assessment hearing. It's incredible.

**Mr McClelland:** I will try to restrict my comments strictly to the content of the amendment, notwithstanding the fact that I think the honourable parliamentary assistant has moved into a broader scope of discussion.

What we're asking for, as the member for Oriole has said, is accountability in the Legislative Assembly. The minister said in her comments and response to the amendment we've put forward that the Interim Waste Authority suspended its work because it had no legislative authority, notwithstanding the fact that considerable sums of money have been spent: I believe the budget this year is in the order of \$13 million. Is that more or less correct? It was \$13 million for this year and it very well may be more, we were told during the process.

What we have here is a minister who's said: "I have chosen a particular direction and I'm going to go ahead with it. I'm going to allocate \$13 million or more of public moneys to proceed in this direction, and then after the fact we'll put the bill in place to give me authority and to legislate what's taking place here." Is it any wonder, then, that those of us sitting opposite would ask where the public accountability is?

The parliamentary assistant can talk all he wants about 1-800 numbers and how the public was consulted. The fact of the matter is that after the Interim Waste Authority completes its work and moves ahead on the basis of the recommendations that are forthcoming from its work and the direction it has taken, and people's property and communities are impacted, there will be a hue and cry like you've never heard. All the rhetoric about consultation and about the fact that "We're available through our 1-800 number" will not appease those people. They will ask, "Why weren't we told? Why weren't our representatives in the Legislative Assembly, from whatever party, and why wasn't the public generally given in concrete terms a report"—not input, but a report—"on what is taking place?"

Here again, what we've heard this afternoon is, if I can repeat and try and put into context what we've heard from the minister and the parliamentary assistant: "We've gone ahead and we've begun a process. We've committed millions upon millions of dollars to do it, but we've suspended the work because we had no legislative authority."

Think of what that's saying, Mr Chairman; consider that for a moment: "We're moving in a direction because we know we'll get what we want." We're a little frustrated, because notwithstanding the rhetoric we heard earlier about how this assembly decided to go with public hearings, we know that was not an easy task to accomplish. This government wanted third reading on this bill by December 17. It was a "must-have" bill. They had to have it by the end of the last session, otherwise there would be tremendous hardship befalling the people of the province.

So they "suspended" their work on site selection, but in the very same breath, the parliamentary assistant said, "But they went on a little further to do other things, their public consultative process." They suspended their work on the list because they had no legislative authority.

I have to ask—either rhetorically or there may be an answer forthcoming—is not one of the difficulties the minister and the parliamentary assistant find themselves in now this: that they began a process under the auspices of Bill 143 as proposed legislation to move forward and to begin to expend public funds, millions upon millions of dollars—we heard in committee when we asked for a specific amount of money that it was "a tremendous amount of money." We weren't sure whether a tremendous amount is more than \$20 million or less than \$20 million; whatever it is, it's a tremendous amount of money. And how much will it cost in the final analysis? "We're not really sure, but it will be a tremendous amount of money," was the response. "We really don't know where we are going with this. It may be \$20 million this year, \$50 million next year, but we don't know. It will be a tremendous amount of money."



We have a responsibility in this House to account for public dollars, and the great irony is that, by her own admission, the minister said: "We proceeded without legislative authority to spend millions of dollars, so we held up the work on one aspect of it, the part that was politically contentious and could have caused us a great deal of hardship out there in the community in terms of public response. We suspended that until we get the legislative authority to move ahead on the tough part." And the parliamentary assistant stands up and says, "All the while we continued to do the other stuff."

As the member for Oriole said, it's really difficult to understand how you can have it both ways. What you're saying is that you want to ensure the integrity of the process and so forth, so, "We had to hold it up, we had to put on the brakes until we had the legislative authority to move forward. But things weren't going well. They weren't going the way we thought they'd work. The opposition didn't roll over at Christmastime. We figured they wouldn't want to hang around and would get this bill through and everything would just fall into place and we could do much of what we're doing"—without the public protection that has been afforded people in this province for quite some time through the process of the Environmental Assessment Act or the Environmental Protection Act, and countless other pieces of legislation.

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Bill 143 apparently, when it is finished, because we've already heard from the minister that there will be no significant amendments accepted, will override those public protections. This money will be spent without any direct accountability to this place. That is why we put this amendment forward. We think it's important to draw to the attention of members in this House and the public generally and the press that the minister, on her very own admission, is going ahead and spending this money without authority.

It will impact people potentially in a very negative way. We believe, as the member for Oriole has said, that one of the fundamental doctrines of democracy is one of public accountability. Accordingly, we feel a report should be forthcoming. I would be pleased if the government would entertain perhaps an amendment to the amendment. Maybe having it once every four months is too onerous, and I can accept that. Maybe we don't want to get into a situation where the primary function of the organization is to draft reports. Perhaps there's an argument to be made there; I'd be interested in entertaining that. But surely there ought to be some mechanism in a regular legislated format and time frame by which a body expending "tremendous sums of money," to use its own words, in the order of millions upon millions of dollars, is required to lay before the people of Ontario what is happening with that money. That is the nature of the amendment.

I come back to that point. I say to the minister with great respect that you can't say: "We held up the area that was tough for us. We held up the work on the sites, because we knew that would be a hornet's nest politically, until we got the legislative authority so we could move

ahead and really do it under the tremendous draconian authority that this bill will grant us."

Understand what's being said here, Mr Chairman. What's being said here is: "We wanted to have the legislative authority so that we could do things differently, so that we could change the rules in terms of public participation. We didn't want to move ahead. But after we have the legislative authority to change the rules, to change the kinds of things we used to fight for when we were in opposition—public participation and public accountability—once we get the override of those protections, we'll move ahead. In the meantime, we'll continue to spend money as we see fit. We know we're going to get what we want because we've laid it out in a time allocation motion."

It doesn't matter what the people of Ontario say. Quite frankly, I don't really expect a great deal of response. I accept very much the goodwill and good spirit the minister has demonstrated in many cases in trying to have constructive dialogue on a variety of issues, but the fact of the matter is that this was etched in stone before it really even hit the desks in this place. The agenda was clearly carved out. I don't think it's stretching inference one bit to say that the intention of the government to have this legislation before December was part and parcel of its communications strategy to move ahead with the "legislative authority" to override public participation, because they knew what would happen. They knew that if they went ahead and proceeded to make it known to people around the province that they might be impacted, those people would be very upset.

So again I say, as the member for Oriole has said, I don't know how you can have it both ways. I don't know how you can say: "We want the public to participate but we don't want to be accountable to them. We don't want to move ahead in terms of those areas of this bill that will give us a problem, because we don't have the authority to do it, but the stuff we can do that isn't difficult for us or that we can do in the bureaucratic maze that currently exists, we'll go ahead with. After all, we're going to get the legislative authority anyway because we're calling the shots here. We have the numbers, we're going to control it, and we have a time allocation motion that's already been put on the floor by the government House leader."

When you come back to this motion, what does it say? It says: Tell us what you're doing. Tell us what you're doing with public money. You have a budget coming down in a few weeks' time—April 30. There is no doubt that services are going to be cut, taxes are going to go up and we're going to continue in the downward spin that we're in unless this government gets a hold in terms of its management. We're saying to you: Here's an opportunity for you to indicate to the people of Ontario something that's very important to them. It's something that's very important in terms of an issue that is of concern: the environment. We want to know what's happening with our tax dollars in that area. That's what the amendment speaks to.

I guess I'm torn. I would like to say it's unbelievable that the government doesn't accept something or perhaps make an amendment to the amendment. On the other hand, when you recognize what they are trying to do here, I

guess it is understandable why they don't want to proceed with the amendment. It's got to be very embarrassing for them, trying to pick and choose and have it, as the member for Oriole has said, both ways. I think they have clearly indicated they're not going to accept this amendment. I'm sure we'll have our members rise on this matter to have this put to a vote at the appropriate time on the second day of committee.

In the meantime, I want to ask the parliamentary assistant or the minister if they could perhaps indicate to this House and the people of Ontario exactly how much money has been spent today "without legislative authority."

**Mr O'Connor:** The main gist of the amendment before us at this moment is to try to get some information out to the public. I think that's the main gist of what the honourable member opposite is trying to do. He's trying to make sure that information about the situation the bill is going to be dealing with gets out to the public as much as possible.

I'd like to read a preliminary list of contacts the Interim Waste Authority has approached. They've approached municipal political representatives, regional political representatives, provincial political representatives, MPPs from throughout the GTA, and federal politicians as well. They've contacted federal and provincial agencies from regional municipalities. They've talked to information offices, planning commissioners, departments, school boards, waste management committees, public works committees, recycling committees, liaison committees and agricultural organizations. I note the Durham Federation of Agriculture and the York Federation of Agriculture, which are in my riding, have been involved in this.

They've had library, board of health, conservation authorities, tourism and recreation, and utilities contacts. They've included on their list special interest groups, environmental groups, community associations, ratepayer groups, recreational organizations, heritage and archaeological associations and key community contacts as well, citizens, chambers of commerce, boards of trade, business associations and media contacts. They've talked to people at radio stations, TV stations, regional magazines and both local and regional newspapers.

The list really is incredible when you consider how many people they've tried to include in the process. The honourable member is saying we're not trying to get the information out to the public. I think this list of contacts shows the incredible work that's being done by the Interim Waste Authority to try to get as many people involved in the consultation as possible. As well as having all these meetings, anybody who has phoned for information on these 1-800 numbers has been included on newsletters sent out. They've had numerous open houses, which I spoke about earlier, and many workshops on the site criteria. A very large amount of consultation has gone on.

As far as public consultation and trying to get the information out to the public are concerned, I think the Interim Waste Authority ought to be applauded for the work that has been done. It's just incredible.

**Mr Turnbull:** Much in the vein that we see from this government in question period, we absolutely didn't get an answer to the question posed by the member for Brampton North. The question was: How much money have you spent? I don't know how you can put it in plainer English than that. We get a shopping list of all the wonderful things you've done and all the meetings you've had, but it has nothing to do with the question. The question is: How much money have you spent without authority? I would very much like us to get an answer to that question.

**Mr O'Connor:** I just have a comment, Mr Chair. We are debating the amendment at this time, the Liberal motion before us, are we not?

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Yes, we are.

**Mr McClelland:** Let's get back to that. We're talking about the amendment I put forward. What it says, Mr Parliamentary Assistant, is to put forward reports, and presumably the reports would include sites and would have attached thereto some reference in terms of expenditures related to the work of the Interim Waste Authority. One goes hand in hand with the other. You're going out, you're doing work, you're spending money, you're bringing scientific evidence to bear.

What we're talking about here, I say to you, Mr Chairman, and to the parliamentary assistant, is not a public relations campaign. We're not talking about information through 1-800 numbers and publications that are sent out and a PR campaign. We're talking about accountability and responsibility. You, sir, as a representative of the people of Durham-York, have as part of your responsibility the job of being accountable, a watchdog, for what happens with tax dollars.

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Apart from the substance of Bill 143, which we will continue to debate, what's really taking place here is the override of many people's hard-fought-for protection. The question I put to the parliamentary assistant, who regrettably has had to respond to a message—I'm sure he'll be back; perhaps the minister will answer—is: How much money has been spent? What we heard in response was that millions of dollars have been spent. A tremendous amount of money has been spent, and we didn't have legislative authority to do it.

What we're saying is: Surely there ought to be some sort of reporting mechanism. Let's think of this in terms of a loop, the concept we're operating within. The government comes forward and says: "We're going to pass legislation and we believe we're going to get it, so we're going to go ahead and do our thing anyway. We're going to go full speed ahead because we have the numbers; we have the majority. We believe we can do what we want to do and we will do it. It matters not what the opposition says. It matters not, more important, what the people of Ontario say. We will do what we will do and that's what's going to happen. In fact, we want to have it done by the end of 1991, so let's just go full charge ahead. This is going to slide through and at the end of the day we will backfill the legislative authority we need to do what we have begun to do."



It didn't work out the way they planned. Some people generally in the province, many municipal leaders and members of the opposition, got a little bit excited about it. They said: "Okay, I didn't read this one correctly. We'll go to public hearings, but we'd better put a brake on this because it's not unfolding the way it should."

The reality is, within that context and the spirit of trying to move ahead without public participation—that was your intent. There is no denying it. There is no denying you intended to move ahead without significant public consultation. You wanted the bill in the worst way, with one day's worth of debate in this House. You didn't get it. In that context, we are saying there's something amiss here. One of the things we can do as an effective opposition is to demand your accountability by tabling in this House legislatively what you're doing with the taxpayers' dollars—millions upon millions of dollars to date.

In committee, the response was that it will be a tremendous amount of money. The member for Markham asked, "What will it be—\$200 million, \$500 million, \$1 billion, \$2 billion?" The response was: "It very well could be. We don't know, but it will be a tremendous amount of money." I suppose the member for Markham could have gone on. I don't know how high he would have gone, where the buzzer would have gone off—at \$10 billion or \$20 billion. I don't know.

But the fact of the matter remains that the government said, "We don't feel we have to lay before the Legislative Assembly and the people of the province an accounting for what we're doing," in doing it with a bill that by its very nature overrides public participation. That's the great irony. On one hand, you're asking that the right of the public to participate as they had before, to have full hearings and be engaged in a process—we'll pick up more of the substance of that later in the bill. In the context of that being a fundamental and very contentious element of this bill, we're saying: At least come clean with the people as to what's happened with their money and what's happening in terms of the site selection process.

It was a political card, in that sense. The minister got very angry with me in committee when we were doing clause-by-clause, because I was accused of playing fast and loose with allegations of insincerity or something of that nature. What happened was this. I'd said I was confused in terms of the list of sites because I had memoranda from the House leader that said, "Give us the bill and we'll give you the list." So it stood to reason in my mind that a list must be out there. We heard throughout that it's not there. I accept that. We've been around that bush countless times. I accept that there was no list.

But what I have to question is this: In the context of the House leader saying, "Cooperate with us and we'll give you what you're looking for on behalf of the people of Ontario," is it any wonder that the opposition says, "Let's require, if we can, or at least"—obviously we're not going to get it in terms of the legislation—"put before the people of Ontario the fact that the government does not want to come clean with what it's doing in terms of the site selection process"?

I remember well the minister, when she was Environment critic, just hammering away at the member for St Catharines in terms of his responsibility to be completely open and forthright and honest in terms of anything that was happening with the environment and what was happening with waste management. She would stand in her place and go after the then minister and say: "You cannot hide behind your ministerial authority or confidentiality in terms of cabinet decisions because we're talking about waste management sites and the environment and that's too important to the people of Ontario. You've got to let people know what's happening with property that's close to them in their neighbourhoods, people's right of ownership, people's right of quality of life in their community." In her role as opposition critic the now minister would then go after the member for St Catharines, who was minister at the time, and say to our friend, "You can't do that."

But now what do they seek to do? They want to just go ahead. "We'll do our public relations campaign, get 1-800 numbers out, have our consultation groups and give you a wonderful list, a menu of all the people we've invited to participate." That's not what we're talking about. We're not talking about information necessarily from a public relations point of view, although that's all well and good. It's important that people be involved in the process. We're not saying that's wrong. We think that's good and we want to give you credit. We laud what you're doing there. I say to the parliamentary assistant, good work, keep it up, keep the public involved. They want to be involved, they want to be part of the solution. But we also say, come forward and lay on the table specifically what you're doing as it would impact their land. Lay on the table specifically what's happening as you begin to narrow down whose land might be affected.

We in this province have enjoyed the right of participation. You members of the NDP sat in opposition for many years. Some were here and some were not, but you were active members of your party no doubt. One of the strengths of your party was that you wanted to hold governments accountable so that people's rights could be protected. We're talking about rights, about people's property, about people's neighbourhoods, about what takes place in communities. That's what you used to fight for. Now you have in place a process that says, "We'll do all the good stuff about consultation, but when it comes down to the nitty-gritty in defining, in specifying whose land might be affected, we don't want to give you that information."

I know why you don't want to give that information: Because people will respond to something like Bill 143 with a fair bit of concern and come before a legislative committee and make their position known in the good faith that maybe the government will respond to some of their positive suggestions. That has come to naught in this case. Notwithstanding what we've heard, the reality is that some of the amendments you brought forward are in large measure cosmetic and don't even really begin to meet the concerns people put forward. Having said that, they believed they had an opportunity to do it. People do that;

that's the way we operate in society. But when it comes down to affecting them where they live, you know they get excited.

There are members in this House who know very much about that because they were part and parcel of citizens' group movements and people involved all across this province in the past because it affected them in their neighbourhoods and it affected their land, property and lifestyle. That's what we're talking about. It's an amendment that focuses it and says to people in the province, "You, sir, you, ma'am, families, your farm is going to be affected and here's what's going to happen." We believe they have a right to know.

We recognize that no matter what you do people are going to be unhappy. Nobody wants a landfill site near him. You're going to have to make some tough choices, but that's what you got elected to do. Surely the people who are being considered have a right to know specifically that they are being considered and surely they have a right to know how they can participate specifically with reference to their property. We're not talking about generalities, we're not talking about an esoteric, academic reflection upon a bill, whether it's a good or bad bill. We're talking about people's property and people's land. We believe that they want to know and I believe that after the fact you're going to have outraged citizens across the province of Ontario.

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With your indulgence, Mr Chairman, I am going to bring it up as often as I can as we go through this, because I know what is going to happen. Before the next election, if you are able to move ahead—there is some question about whether you are going to be able to, and that will be fodder for discussion as we move through this bill—and you begin to narrow it down and start to pick specific sites, you are going to have citizens' groups coming out of the woodwork, coming down here en masse and making your life very miserable.

That is the reality, and you can pay now or you can pay later. You have obviously chosen to pay later, and maybe from a public relations and a crass political point of view, that is the smart thing to do. But I say to people who used to stand in their places and say, "Environmental issues and issues that affect people's lives are too important to play games with," you can't get away with it now. You can't have it both ways. You can't on one hand say, "We were proceeding, but we put on the brakes because we had a tough row ahead of us and we wanted the legislative authority, the bill, to move full steam ahead."

You can't pick and chose in terms of accountability. You either are or you're not. If you're not prepared to come forward and say to the people of Ontario, "Your land is being considered," what is going to happen is that after the fact, after you have narrowed it down, you say, "Your land was considered and it has been chosen and you can make all the noise you want, but that is the way it's going to be." That is consistent with what you have done with this legislation.

That is the thing that gets us concerned, that there is a parallel there. The parallel is that the process you are seeking to impose on the people of Ontario in terms of site

selection is very similar to the process that you wanted to proceed with in getting Bill 143. That is why we think that you have got to come forward, lay it on the table and say to people, "Your land."

People in Durham-York will want to know that their land is being considered, and they have a right to know, I say to the parliamentary assistant. They have a right to go to you as their advocate to make sure that their rights are protected or that they are compensated appropriately. That is why we are asking you to reconsider that and be accountable. You may not like the four months. Make it once a year, make it six months, but at least be accountable and let people know that their land is in jeopardy.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Prior to proceeding, I have just been advised by our Clerk that indeed we are dealing with an amendment which would create a new section, so I am asking the committee of the whole House here if we could now approve section 2 and then proceed with the debate on the amendment, which effectively is a new section between sections 2 and 3. Is this agreeable to the committee? Agreed.

Section 2 agreed to.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** We now proceed with the debate that was currently in process, Mr McClelland's amendment.

**Mr O'Connor:** I listened again intently, as always, to the member for Brampton North opposite as he talked about the need to make sure citizens are keenly aware of what is happening. I don't know whether I talked a little bit about the information centres that the IWA has proposed in the draft approach and criteria document, the document that perhaps not all the members of the Legislature have had a chance to take a look at and read, but I am sure they would be really keenly interested to hear a little bit about it.

The information centres are going to be put out in every community, every municipality. They are going to be set up in municipal offices and libraries in all the affected communities so that when the long list that we have been talking about is identified, there is a representative from the IWA available there for consultation with the public so that we can get them involved and allow that involvement to take place.

The member for Brampton North is right; it is important to let people know exactly what is going on. The centres are going to be open for a few hours every week to try to encourage people to come in, and a full set of documentation will be available at these information centres, at municipal offices and at libraries. They are going to have workshops too. They are going to have a number of workshops to try to encourage people to come in and to discuss it. They are going to have people included as much as possible, long before we ever get down to the short list that the member opposite has been speaking about. We are trying to include people in every bit of the process.

The member is right when he says that informing the public, the people who are going to be affected, is important, and that is exactly what the IWA has been doing. Maybe some of the members just haven't had an opportunity



to read right through the draft document. I'd suggest they take a look at section 5 of it because it lays out some of the consultation that's got to take place. I am sure the concerns of the member opposite about public information are important and they're addressed very well in this document.

**Mr Callahan:** It's somewhat analogous to what is in place for planning legislation or rezoning legislation, where people who are going to be affected by the particular rezoning have to be notified within, I think, 400 feet of the affected area. I don't see this as being anything different. This question of landfill and the potentiality or the possibility of your site, your farm, your neighbour's farm, your next-door property, being designated as a landfill site or a potential one probably causes more anxiety and heartburn for individuals.

We had a landfill location. A number of sites were identified in the Peel region, actually in the Brampton area. I can remember people coming to me and saying: "Mr Callahan, I can't even fix my rec room. I'm not going to fix my rec room because I don't know whether the site that's been designated is the site that's going to eventually be the landfill site."

To put people of this province under that gun and under that anxiety is most unfair. It flies in the face of natural justice. I would think the NDP would be jumping all over the section that's being proposed, because you people have always said you look after all the little people. By rejecting this amendment you're suddenly sounding like the closet government; do everything in the dark, don't let too many people know about it.

For crying out loud, you can put out all sorts of gobbledegook; you can send the member for Scarborough-Agincourt a letter—I'd love to know where the mailing came from—asking him to join the NDP. Surely to God, if you can send that kind of stuff out to members in this House you know surely are not going to join your party, there's no question, no reason on this earth why you can't possibly take this amendment and say, "Every four months we're just going to let the folks know what sites are being looked at."

Is that a secret? My friend the member for Durham West says, "Oh, it'll be in the newspapers." I know where it'll be in the newspapers. You're going to spend big bucks in the newspapers every time after the fact and people won't see it. When the poor person comes along and says, "Hey, what are they doing drilling over there? What's this

interest they've got in my property?" the answer from the bureaucrats is going to be: "Well, it was in the newspaper. You should have seen it and if you didn't see it, too bad."

I don't think there's anything wrong, Madam Minister, with this amendment. In fact it's an amendment that gives this bill a sense of justice. If you don't vote for it, then you people over there aren't in favour of the people knowing what's going on in this province. Just keep it hidden and if you keep it hidden you can sneak it through. Actually you're going to have to sneak it through in a disaster area, because by the time you get around to doing it we'll be up to our elbows—they say, "Up to your armpits in alligators." We'll be up to our armpits in garbage.

So, Madam Minister, I can't see anything wrong with that amendment. It would be gracious of you. It would establish my belief. As you people have always said, you're the guardians of all the people. It would show you are the guardians of all the people by accepting that amendment. I urge you to do so.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** By all-party agreement it was agreed that we would actually be terminating at about this time. The honourable government House leader, please.

On motion by Mr Cooke, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** I would like to indicate the business of the House for next week. On Tuesday, April 21, we'll continue in committee of the whole House on Bill 143, with votes being held at the end of the day. Wednesday we have an opposition day standing in the name of Mr Runciman, and Thursday we will do third reading of Bill 143.

I move the adjournment of the House.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Mr Cooke has moved the adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

**Interjection:** No.

**The Speaker:** No? All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

The ayes definitely have it.

The House adjourned at 1631.

#### ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
5	99	2	31	I question why any member of the Legislative Assembly would do such a thing. To use such a ploy to discredit

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO**  
**ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathyssen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsable for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

**STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS**

**Administration of justice/Administration de la justice**

Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Winninger

Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

**Estimates/Budgets des dépenses**

Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Cameron Jackson, Wayne Lessard, Margaret Marland, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara

Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 21 April 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mardi 21 avril 1992



Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





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## **Table des matières**

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 21 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### UNIVERSITY CROWN FOUNDATIONS

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** Last November I introduced a private member's resolution in this House on university crown foundations. This motion won the unanimous support of all three parties. Unfortunately, though, no action has been taken as yet by the government and the Minister of Colleges and Universities in particular.

The establishment of university crown foundations will cost the government very little money but reap potentially substantial benefits for our cash-strapped universities. So what is the holdup, Mr Treasurer?

It is time for this government to show support for our institutions of higher learning. The budget date is approaching soon. Let me remind the Treasurer and the Minister of Colleges and Universities that follow-up to my resolution will be one of the items I will be looking for. Rest assured, though, that it won't be just me awaiting legislation on university crown foundations. I have had several contacts from the university community, all asking what developments have taken place since my motion passed and was supported with praise by the government benches.

Treasurer, Minister, the university community is waiting for your budget with eager anticipation. Don't let them down again.

### NORTHERN HEALTH TRAVEL GRANTS

**Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound):** I rise in the House today to bring the matter of a needed change in regulation to the northern health travel grant program. As the Minister of Health will know, there are three requirements which Ontario residents must meet in order to qualify for this program.

First, applicants must live in an area designated as part of northern Ontario for the purposes of the program. The second requirement is one of distance. The last requirement dictates that the general practitioner who refers the resident for specialized medical treatment must be a northern Ontario physician in order for the patient to qualify. As a result of this third requirement, some residents in the district of Parry Sound are currently denied access to the program.

I have held several discussions with the Minister of Health regarding this matter. I want to recognize the fact that it is under her guidance that changes have indeed been made to the northern health travel grant program, allowing most Parry Sound constituents eligibility for the program. However, this third requirement still prevents some constituents from receiving specialized medical treatment because they are ineligible.

The situation has been exacerbated by the closing of the Burk's Falls and District Hospital. Residents of the southeastern corner of the Parry Sound district must now in many instances travel to Huntsville in order to consult a general practitioner. As members of the House will know, Huntsville is located in southern Ontario. As a result, these people are barred from participating in the program because their physician lives in southern Ontario.

The minister has assured me that she will review this requirement prohibiting all residents of the district of Parry Sound from enjoying the program. I would like to know the result of this review.

### ENERGY CONSERVATION

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** I would like to bring before the House today the achievement of Durham College in respect to energy conservation.

They have achieved these energy savings through the introduction of an automation system, filtration-of-air systems, and the redesign of all exterior lighting. They have installed 170 motion sensors in classrooms and laboratories and in change areas. Motion sensors are now being phased into all offices. The college has also added reflectors to the lights in hallways and used sodium instead of mercury vapour in the majority of the lighting fixtures.

Since 1985 enrolment at Durham College has increased by 44%, and yet Durham College has decreased its annual energy consumption by 1,538,094 kilowatt-hours. Durham College justly deserves its number one ranking in the college system for energy conservation.

### GASOLINE PRICES

**Mr John C. Cleary (Cornwall):** Every member of this assembly with a border community will undoubtedly recognize that gasoline is the big draw for cross-border shoppers. The levels of federal and provincial tax make drivers cross over to the USA for a cheaper gasoline price. This situation is only magnified in communities such as the riding I represent, where a nearby native reserve offers completely taxless gasoline.

In an effort to assist the greater Cornwall area economy, I introduced a private member's bill in the last session of the Legislature which requested that the additional taxes the NDP government's 1991 budget had imposed on gasoline be removed. At the time, I was very disappointed that this bill was defeated. However, it now gives me great pleasure to note that a new local initiative to fight the high price of gasoline will be introduced in my riding on Monday, May 4. This program, called Cornwall dollars, will encourage residents to buy local gasoline. Essentially, participating retailers will provide shoppers with Cornwall dollar coupons. These coupons may then be redeemed at Cornwall gasoline outlets to reduce the price of gasoline to about 30 cents a litre.

Gasoline is one of the keys to keeping shoppers on this side of the border. I applaud the Cornwall Hotel, Motel and



Restaurant Association for introducing this novel idea in cooperation with the Cornwall Gas Association and the *caisse populaire*.

1340

#### ORGAN DONORS

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** April 19 to 25 is Organ Donor Awareness Week in Ontario. Currently our province is facing a critical shortage of donated organs. Almost 800 people are waiting for a transplant operation, and the consequences are often fatal. For example, up to 30% of people waiting for a heart transplant will die while waiting. But when organ transplants do take place, they are very successful. One year after an operation, the success rate for transplants is more than 80%, and most recipients are able to lead full and productive lives.

There are thousands of documented cases that prove organ transplants save lives. In some cases, one donor can change the lives of up to 11 people by giving them a heart, a liver or eyes so they can see again. A person of any age can be a potential organ donor. In one case, a 10-year-old boy received a liver from a 70-year-old donor. In another case, the corneas from a 90-year-old donor were used to give sight to another person.

I urge the government to introduce incentives into our health care system to ensure that physicians are able to perform transplant operations when organs become available. I also urge all members of the public to sign the organ donor section of their driver's licence. That simple act may just save someone's life.

#### HOSPITAL SERVICES

**Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph):** In the throne speech we heard how ministers are working closely with sectors to change the way Ontario provides services. We also heard how plans are being developed in my riding to rebuild St Joseph's as a long-term care hospital and to develop Guelph General Hospital.

Guelph hospital redevelopment has been a contentious issue for 30 years in my riding. It has divided Guelph municipal politicians, doctors, nurses, unions and business people into political, religious and hospital loyalty camps. Under previous governments there were cries from the Guelph community of political interference, favouritism and window dressing.

The honourable Minister of Health met with hospital and district health council officials in Guelph on February 14 and spoke in favour of the report of the Guelph Hospitals Redevelopment Committee. This community-based committee based its report on an objective look at the health care needs of Guelph residents, the available dollars and the expertise of the hospitals.

This example from my riding clearly illustrates our government's determination to preserve public services in tough times. It illustrates our promise to be an open government that listens to people. It also illustrates our commitment to break away from the old style of politics and to do things with a different style. My constituents are saying it's about time.

#### MINISTERIAL COURTESY

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** I would like to thank the parsimonious Treasurer and the Minister of Health for providing some \$14.3 million for Peel Memorial Hospital. The hospital has served the needs of Brampton since it was a very small town, now a community of 190,000 people reaching 320,000.

I must say, however, that I am dismayed—in fact I am angered—by the fact that this announcement was made through a press release. There was not the courtesy to inform the members of what was going on.

This has been a long-standing issue that I have fought since 1985. My colleague the member for Brampton North, in whose riding it is now being carried out, or would have been carried out, has asked questions in the House, has questioned the minister, has sent letters and had no replies.

This was a cutting-edge proposal which was just about in the ground, Minister. It came that close. You didn't listen to the people of the riding of Brampton South or Brampton North. You simply went ahead and allocated the moneys where you thought you could get the most political mileage out of it. That's not satisfactory, Minister, and I suggest you revisit the issue.

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Mr Callahan:** If you can keep those people back there from yelling and shouting like a bunch of loonies, to begin with, this thing was looked at by the district health council. Many, many hours and many, many days were put in by the people of my community to determine that this was the facility. The community itself was wise enough to allocate and buy 46 acres of land on which that facility could be built. Minister, you didn't pay any attention whatsoever to the members representing that area, nor did you listen to the people of Brampton-Bramalea.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** The Meaford tank range in my riding has just received an influx of money which will create hundreds of jobs for the people of Grey. Aside from construction work, when completed, facilities will provide work for 80 civilians and 140 full-time army staff. It will also attract several hundred visitors each weekend, which is great news for tourism in the area. Because of the local economy, this initiative is one that was badly needed. But now we need something else as well.

The Meaford General Hospital's expansion was approved for funding in 1986, and while the board is pleased that progress is being made, it hopes the minister remembers that it is still waiting for permission to go to working drawings and to tender. They would very much like to have the project started by the end of the year.

The minister will surely understand that partly because of the new industry and population growth created by the expansion of the tank range, the community will be even more anxious to have the promised new day care, ambulatory and outpatient services. The people of

Meaford have worked hard to see their dreams take shape. I'm sure the minister won't let them down.

#### VIOLENCE IN SPORTS

**Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview):** Another hockey season is coming to a close. Regrettably, the Toronto Maple Leafs, in spite of a good season, did not make the playoffs. Let us hope they have better luck next year.

I was appalled recently when during a hockey game a fan found himself on the ice, and in front of the thousands in the arena and millions of television viewers across the continent, the fan was held against the boards in front of the players' bench by three players while a fourth player, otherwise known as a goon, repeatedly struck the fan in the head, again and again and again. The fan continued to be hit while the referees tried to wrestle him free from the players. They brutally continued to punch him in the head.

*Interjections.*

**Mr Perruzza:** This type of violence must be condemned wherever it happens, in a sports arena, on the streets or in homes across the country. Public displays of violence, particularly by those held in high esteem in our society, such as professional athletes, cannot be accepted or protected by our institutions.

Mr Ziegler and the National Hockey League must take swift and decisive action to eradicate brutal displays of violence in the game of hockey. I have written to Mr Ziegler to ask him to act on this matter immediately, and I've also requested that the Solicitor General look into what action can be taken by our government to deal with the issue of violence in sports and to turn five-minute penalties into long-term jail sentences.

I appreciate the Conservatives; they stopped heckling when we talked about violence outside hockey. I think they take this to be a serious issue as well.

**Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and government House leader):** Mr Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent that the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General make a statement on behalf of the Attorney General, who is, I believe, unable to get out of Thunder Bay to be here with us today.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Do we have unanimous agreement?

*Interjections:* Agreed.

**The Speaker:** Agreed.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

##### COURT SYSTEM

**Mr David Wininger (London South):** It gives me great pleasure as the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General to announce to the Legislature today the government's plans to increase the monetary jurisdiction of Small Claims Courts in Ontario.

Starting July 1, residents outside Metropolitan Toronto will be able to bring claims of up to \$3,000 to Small Claims Courts. This brings the rest of the province in line with Metropolitan Toronto, which had its jurisdiction increased to \$3,000 in 1980 as part of a pilot project. The

second stage will see the Small Claims Courts' jurisdiction across the province increased to \$6,000 as of April 1, 1993.

The Ministry of the Attorney General will begin consultations immediately with users of the system on ways to make Small Claims Courts more responsive to the needs of the public and ensure an efficient use of court resources. With court staff, lawyers, judges and the public, we will examine ways to improve the quality of service to the public and ensure that standards and procedures are suitable to a people's court. Our goal is to make the small claims system as easy to use and as uncomplicated as possible.

1350

In addition, we will consult on new procedures to appoint Small Claims Court judges. An employment equity strategy for the filling of new judicial positions and the hiring of court staff will be developed before the second stage of increase takes effect.

Small Claims Courts have always been considered the people's courts. Because it is designed so that clients can bring their claims to court without the assistance of a lawyer, Small Claims Court costs are dramatically lower than costs associated with pursuing claims in the General Division.

Today's announcement is particularly important given the current economic climate. During periods of recession, demand for Small Claims Courts services increase.

The current jurisdictional limit has failed to keep pace with the rate of inflation. Outside Metropolitan Toronto amounts have not been increased since 1977. The increases announced today will assist small businesses and individual consumers in gaining access to the court system. We anticipate a 25% increase in small claims cases with the first jurisdictional increase and an additional 15% following the second increase.

As part of our efforts to establish a more uniform system and improve service across the province, we are working closely with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union to plan for the conversion of fee-for-service staff to full- and part-time employees.

The cost of these changes will be met by increasing General Division fees, and to a lesser extent, Small Claims Court fees. While fee increases will recognize the importance of maintaining access to the court system, it is important to appreciate that fees have not kept pace with the cost of maintaining the administration of justice.

To conclude, these changes to Ontario's Small Claims Courts reflect the needs of a broad range of people who need access to this low-cost people's court.

The increased jurisdiction for these courts provides equity and access across the province and presents people with a greater opportunity to rely on the justice system to resolve a number of their disputes.

#### RESPONSES

##### COURT SYSTEM

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** Mr Speaker, as you know, the tradition of this House is to make announcements of this type first in the House. This issue has been



brought up on a number of occasions. We have a headline from today's Toronto Star indicating "Cash Limit For Small Claims Up To \$3,000," an article by Paula Todd. Once again the Toronto Star has scooped the Legislature. I am just commenting, as a preliminary, that this type of thing has to stop. It indicates that there is little respect for this Legislature by the government.

This announcement has been long overdue and is welcomed as far as it goes. We know that the NDP has long advocated an increase in the limit for Small Claims Court actions. The \$3,000 limit, however, is being expanded today for those areas outside Metropolitan Toronto. The significance of the announcement is that between now and next January those people outside Metropolitan Toronto will be able to sue at the \$3,000 limit for the first time. The announcement goes on further, to indicate that next year the limit will be increased to \$6,000.

I'd like to suggest to the government that it reconsider that particular limit. A number of experienced litigators in the province have suggested that the limit in Small Claims Court perhaps should go as high as \$10,000. For example, next January, if there were to be a \$7,000 claim that a citizen had against another citizen, that would have to be brought in the higher court. In point of fact, any experienced litigator will tell you that the court costs and legal fees would probably exceed \$10,000 or \$12,000 in the higher court for that \$7,000 claim.

That brings the administration of justice into disrepute, when in fact the legal costs and the legal fees will very significantly exceed the amount of the claim.

I believe the court system can be structured. There could be a cost system structure that will enable all these smaller types of claims, \$10,000 and below, to go into the Small Claims Court.

I do want to comment on one other sentence in the announcement and I quote from it:

"The Ministry of the Attorney General will begin consultations immediately with users of the system on ways to make Small Claims Courts more responsive to the needs of the public and ensure an efficient use of court resources."

The Attorney General has been telling us for 18 months that the reason this is being delayed is because there has been ongoing consultation, and yet the statement today says that consultation will begin immediately. This is the type of thinking and the type of action, particularly in the Ministry of the Attorney General, where this government is closing the barn door after the horse is out, on a whole host of issues.

This issue of the Small Claims Court should be put in the context of access of the public to our court system in Ontario. We don't know where this government is on access issues. We have a little piece of news here and a little piece of news there, and there's no comprehensive strategy whatsoever coming from this minister, from this Attorney General or from the government.

They stole a bill on class actions from the then Attorney General, the member for St George-St David. On the question of contingency fees, legal aid access issues, the law of standing, the environmental bill of rights and the expansion of intervenor funding we have no idea where

this government is going. They have no game plan for the administration of justice across the board.

I will say that in the absence of the Premier I would like the Treasurer to speak to his Attorney General and tell him to get up to speed because, as I said the other day—I see the Treasurer is taking out his note pad and I appreciate that—the legal issues facing Ontario's society are developing in a geometric progression and this minister and ministry are moving in an arithmetic progression. They are simply not up to speed.

I would urge the Premier and the Deputy Premier to really get on the back of the Attorney General, because there are a lot of people out there who are looking for access to the courts. There are a lot of people in the legal profession who are wondering what this government is all about and what this ministry is all about.

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** I would like to fill in the last little bit of time by saying that we were a little concerned that only the Minister of the Environment was able to go out and help with food banks, and not the Attorney General. We understand he may have been putting together this statement for the House today, but the speech made by the honourable Minister of the Environment was not very helpful yesterday.

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** This announcement was a long time in coming. It was a very simple thing to raise the limit from \$1,000 to \$3,000, and it should have been done a year and a half ago. Nevertheless it finally has been done.

But there are a couple of items in this statement that disturb me. One of them is that there hasn't been anything definitive in this announcement about the judges who are going to man this court. I know the existing Small Claims Court judges are concerned because they are now working without judicial immunity. What is going to happen to those existing judges? Are they going to become permanent judges of the Small Claims Court or are they going to continue to be part of a bench that really no longer exists? The announcement is silent on that.

I am a little bit concerned about the idea that the Ontario Public Service Employees Union take such a large part in the running of our Small Claims Courts. It is interesting that at the present time, in the town of Fergus in the county of Wellington there are people who run offices and take fees for service as an accommodation to people so they don't have to travel to the county seat to issue a claim. Those people are now going to be out of a job, it appears. It's more important that the union run fancy bureaucratic court offices than for people in the counties of this province to have easy access to issue or defend a claim. This is the important thing that really underlies this whole announcement, and I am concerned about it.

As well, I am concerned that this is the government's whole answer to the problem of backlogs that presently exist in the civil courts. I hope this is not the end of it. I hope that they're going to start to look at the Ontario Court (General Division) and some of the backlogs and difficulties that exist there and that this isn't the end of their

access to justice, because problems exist in the other levels of courts as well.

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I think it's long overdue that this step was taken in this Legislature. The original expansion of the Small Claims Court jurisdiction from \$1,000 to \$3,000 came, I think, in 1981, as the parliamentary assistant indicated. I find it rather ironic that now the official opposition, the Liberal Party, stands up and says it should be \$10,000 when it had five or six years to do something. They were asked by the chambers of commerce, they were asked by everybody in the province to raise the jurisdiction of the Small Claims Court and they sat there and did nothing.

1400

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** In the absence of the Premier, I will direct my first question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Last spring, in announcing the one-year, \$50-million credit assistance program, the government talked about its commitment to developing long-range assistance programs which farmers could actually depend on in planning their financial survival. So far this year the government has introduced a minor \$1-million commodity loans program, leaving farmers to wonder whether the \$50-million base in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's budget that has traditionally gone to credit assistance is being cut this year.

I ask the minister to assure the farmers of this province that the full \$50-million budget allocated in past years to credit assistance will be converted into the new long-term financial assistance program he has been promising to farmers over this past year.

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** I would rather not talk in specific dollar terms at this point in time. The budget will be brought forward by the Treasurer later this month.

What we have endeavoured to do, though, is bring in long-term programs that will benefit farmers. I have addressed this House before in response to questions which talked about spending our money more wisely, smarter spending to make sure the money invested by the taxpayers of Ontario in agriculture is for the benefit of farmers and not simply transfers farmers ultimately have to turn over to lending institutions to cover the cost of high interest rates.

We are looking at ways of developing programs. We have several programs under way that are currently being developed. We've announced one program already and we hope to be able to announce, in the near future, further programs that will address the needs of farmers.

**Mrs McLeod:** I was not asking the minister to reveal any confidential information about the forthcoming budget in terms of any new funds or programs; I was simply asking him to confirm the commitment to past funds.

For the past year this minister has been talking about the importance of the gross revenue insurance plan and the net income stabilization account and his own commitment

to channelling past price stabilization program dollars into these new long-term support programs that will allow farmers to plan for the future.

Farmers are now raising their concerns that the government may be moving to change the existing GRIP and NISA formulas because of the government's overall financial crisis and will be looking at capping or limiting the funding and benefits under these two programs. I ask the minister whether the government is indeed considering this kind of cap, and if so, how can farmers possibly plan for their long-term survival if the government is threatening to change the GRIP and NISA programs in midstream?

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** We have discussed caps in the past as a way of dealing with the limited amount of funds available for agriculture and trying to make sure the funds the government was handing out to farmers in fact were supporting the family farm, the average-sized farm, and would not get out of control in terms of very large units of production.

I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition that we are not in the process right now of considering those caps. What in fact we are considering at this point in time is a way of increasing the support price which would be paid out for this year's crop. Farmers in other provinces have endorsed the concept of maintaining the support price that was in place last year, which will cost Ontario several extra million dollars to do, and we are giving that some consideration.

**Mrs McLeod:** I would urge the minister to recognize that what farmers need is a commitment to the long-term programs that will make planning possible. It seems to us that this government has still failed to recognize the very serious financial situation the farmers in this province are facing right now. It's a situation so serious that we're faced with a seemingly incredible irony of the recent news reports that our farmers are having to use food banks to survive.

By the time the government announces its budget and any new agricultural programs, it may well be too late for many farmers to arrange the financing that's necessary for this year's crops. I would simply ask the minister why his government continues to put farmers at the very bottom of its priority list instead of announcing the details of those needed assistance programs now, when farmers are being forced to make decisions literally about their survival.

**Hon Mr Buchanan:** The record of this government is very clear. A year ago we got permission to announce our interest assistance program prior to the budget. We did commit \$50 million at that time. During the course of the year we announced an extra \$35.5 million, of which \$11 million went into the interest assistance program. I would say that very seldom have governments added money to programs in order that everyone who qualified would get his or her money. In the past what happened is that programs were announced with limits, and when the limits were reached that was the end of the money. That was not the case last year, so we do have and have demonstrated a commitment to agriculture.

We are committed to long-term programs. I think the GRIP and the NISA, which are federal-provincial programs,



are good programs and we continue to be supportive of those. We are now in the process of developing interest assistance programs that are long-term in nature and we will bring those on stream in due time.

#### SKILLS TRAINING

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** In the absence of both the Premier and the Minister of Community and Social Services, I would direct my second question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Our House leader has noted a little bit earlier today the fact that at a throne speech by the poor sponsored by the Daily Bread Food Bank, the representative of the provincial government blamed the federal government for increased use of food banks rather than acknowledging what the province could do. We on this side of the House continue to be concerned that the provincial government actually fails to take the action it says it intends to take.

It was on November 29, 1990, that the government announced, or reannounced perhaps, a \$54-million fund that would, in partnership with municipalities, provide training and support to people receiving social assistance to get them back to work. I would ask the Treasurer if he will tell us whether or not the \$54-million fund is still available for municipal employment programs, or is this a program that has effectively been cut?

**Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics):** Perhaps I could respond in a rather general way, rather than falling into a trap set by the Leader of the Opposition that would imply we've cut this kind of program. I would remind the leader of the official opposition, when she asks us a question on a very serious matter, that a year or so ago, a little over a year ago, this government announced a 7% increase in social assistance benefits and a 10% increase in accommodation or residency assistance. This year we announced a 2% increase in benefits and a 3% increase in residential shelter costs, and another 3% on July 1.

I think that, to be fair, the leader of the official opposition should acknowledge the fact that we have done a great deal, given the very restrictive circumstances in which we find ourselves, and I think the leader of the official opposition would also admit that we do have the highest social assistance rates in North America.

1410

**Mrs McLeod:** There was no trap in that question. I continue to simply be wanting to take back to the government the words, its stated commitments in the throne speech, and relate them to the reality of what's happening out there.

The Treasurer will be well aware, as he prepares for his next budget, that the need for training, and particularly training for social assistance recipients to help them get back to work, was one of the main themes, one of the main commitments, of that throne speech. We already have raised an example of one of those exact kinds of training programs which the government has cut.

Let me share with the Treasurer, so he won't feel I'm trying to trap him, the details of this particular program.

The facts are that in 1988, under a previous government, \$54 million was set aside for these specific training programs for social assistance recipients. In December 1990, instead of allocating these funds to municipalities across the province, the Minister of Community and Social Services reannounced the same funding. In May 1991, while speaking at an Ontario Municipal Social Services Association annual convention, the minister reportedly said—this is a quotation—“Even as I speak, these funds are on their way to the municipalities.” Incidentally, she followed by stating that if the funds didn't arrive she would ensure that heads would roll.

My question to the Treasurer is, why was this money not spent? Why was the money that she said was flowing to the municipalities never received and why is his government forcing these same social assistance recipients to stay on social assistance when they would rather have the training opportunities and get back to work?

**Hon Mr Laughren:** The leader of the official opposition is being unfair in her categorization of these programs. Having said that, I would agree with the leader of the official opposition about the need for training of people in social assistance, because we believe very strongly that the day is gone when governments should simply implement make-work projects in which people qualify for unemployment insurance. When the unemployment insurance runs out, they then apply for social assistance again, and there's never any real attachment to the workforce developed. That is the kind of thing we want to avoid. We're working very hard to come up with a program that will meet those criteria. All I can assure the member opposite is that when it comes to the budget there will be more information forthcoming.

**Mrs McLeod:** The Treasurer doesn't have to work hard to implement this particular program. The work's been done. The programs were there. We've given you now two examples of exactly the kind of programs you say you want to implement. All you have to do is implement them.

The concerns I raise in raising this particular issue today are not ours alone. Recently there was a letter sent to the Minister of Community and Social Services, or rather to the ministry, from the commissioner of the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton. In that letter, the commissioner said that despite the municipality's continued efforts to access that funding and in fact to set aside moneys from its own budget as its share of the program money, “We get nothing but excuses, vague promises and broken commitments from your ministry.” Municipalities are going to play a vital role to any changes in social assistance, yet they're finding that the promises made by the government are not fulfilled and this \$54-million broken promise is just one example of that.

Let me ask the Treasurer very directly, very frankly, is the province's financial situation so grim that you're holding back this particular funding and this particular program that was first announced in 1989 so that your budget next week can seem to offer at least something to the unemployed people of this province?

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** Smoke and mirrors.

**Hon Mr Laughren:** I don't want to be provocative, but this government needs no lectures on smoke and mirrors from that party opposite, none whatsoever.

It seems to me that one of the basic differences between the position of this government and the position of the leader of the official opposition is that she seems to be satisfied with the status quo. We're not. We want to do even better than we've done in the past.

#### TOURISM INDUSTRY

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** My question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Last week my leader met with the president of Local 75 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union. I was shocked to learn that there would be no new major conventions in Toronto until 1995. In fact, many Canadian organizations are looking to American cities because the average cost of holding a convention in this city is 40% higher than in the US. Would the minister tell us what specific initiatives he is taking to stop this tide of cross-border convention shopping?

**Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation):** We've had a number of opportunities to speak to some people about the problems with conventions and trade shows in Ontario. We've been working very hard to induce people to come to Ontario, to have their conventions here. We've put some dollars into London, Ontario, in the investment of a convention centre, which I am sure is going to be a real asset to the people of London. We continue to look for opportunities to bring conventions here to Toronto and to other parts of the province. We've invested in different convention centres in other parts of the province as well, and we invest in marketing programs that we hope will induce people to come to the province and have their conventions here.

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** I haven't heard a response to the question as to the action plan, but I'd like to tell the minister that the restaurant industry in Ontario has lost 50,000 jobs since your government took over, and now this government, in its insatiable hunger for more tax revenue, is reportedly looking at removing the sales tax exemption on meals costing less than \$4. This could cost up to 12,000 more jobs in this province and it's going to further decimate the tourist industry.

Mr Minister, will you give your personal assurance that these jobs will not be lost and that this exemption will not be removed in the Treasurer's next budget?

**Hon Mr North:** Maybe I could address a couple of the different questions you asked. First of all, on the question of 50,000 jobs lost, I've spoken directly to the industry concerning these problems. The industry has also had an opportunity to speak directly to the Treasurer, I might add, on these basic concerns.

We've had a tremendous opportunity to work with the tourism industry since I've been the minister, and I've found that they're easy to work with. They want to look at partnerships between business, labour, the government and

the community. We've tried to do those types of things. The central reservation information system is one of those opportunities. We've tried a marketing plan that involves all aspects of the private sector and the public sector working together. We've made that commitment; the industry has made that commitment. I understand that there have been jobs lost. There have been jobs lost in a number of other industries as well.

One of the questions you might want to take back to your colleagues and want to take a little further down the road is the question of the GST. I don't want to blame anybody for anything, but I'm telling you what they're telling me, and a big problem in the tourism industry in this province as well as other provinces is the question of the GST. If we can solve that problem, we can solve problems we have with our own tax. We've had an opportunity to speak to the Treasurer. The Treasurer makes decisions on taxes. We try to bring those issues forward. That's all we can do.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** The Minister of Tourism and Recreation is telling us he's investing in new convention halls. The problem, Mr Minister, is that we're not filling the ones we have right now. Second, he's suggesting he's meeting with business for partnership. The people I meet with in the tourism and restaurant trade aren't asking for partnership; they're asking for a tax break.

The bottom line in his response is that he blames the federal government for the GST. Your party sat on this side of the House some two years ago and condemned the Liberal government for the commercial concentration tax. It's killing the restaurant business. It's killing the tourism business in Metropolitan Toronto. Your party promised to withdraw it. For a matter of a year and a half you've collected \$110 million in revenue. Have you forgotten your promise? When do you plan on going to the cabinet table, fulfilling that promise and giving this industry that is decimated by this recession an opportunity to fight back?

1420

**Hon Mr North:** That's a very good question, and I appreciate that question. I've had lots of opportunity to come to the cabinet table and have all kinds of discussions about tourism in this province, and we've had the opportunity to speak to the Treasurer about a number of different tax issues. As a matter of fact, the industry itself has come forward with a paper on taxes saying where it would like to change some taxes, where it would like taxes to be removed and where it would give us a very balanced approach to taxes in general in this province. We've had those opportunities and we've had those discussions. Those discussions have come to the Treasurer—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Hon Mr North:** I'm sorry you can't hear me; I apologize for that. I'm telling you that we're trying to do what we can. This is not the easiest thing in the world to do—anyone can tell you that. We've talked about the commercial concentration tax; you've talked about the commercial concentration tax. They've talked about infrastructure;



they want infrastructure built in this province. Sometimes when you want to build something, when you want things, you have to pay for them, and there has to be some way to pay for them. We'll have those discussions with the Treasurer, and that's the way it is.

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I have a question for the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, 12,000 high school students in the Ottawa Board of Education have been out for 28 days now. In the Carleton Board of Education they've been out for 19 days. When are you going to show some leadership?

**Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Education):** I have been following the events very closely and have been having a number of discussions with the Education Relations Commission. It may be useful to read to the House a brief press release which was just put out by the Education Relations Commission, which met this morning to deal with this matter.

The release indicates: "The Education Relations Commission met today and seriously considered the question of whether an advisement of jeopardy should be made to the minister with regard to the dispute between the Ottawa Board of Education and its secondary school teachers. The commission has deferred the decision on jeopardy pending the results of meetings scheduled between the parties and the mediator to commence in Toronto at 9 am on Wednesday, April 22, 1992." That's tomorrow morning. "The commission will remain in constant contact with the mediator.

"Failing resolution, the commission will be reconvening for further consideration of the question on Thursday, April 23, at 11 am." That's this Thursday.

I think the sense is quite clear: As a result of this release, the actions the commission has taken and discussions I've had with them, there is a sense that there's a real possibility of the dispute being resolved between the parties. I think as long as that possibility is there, we need to be doing everything possible in that vein. But quite frankly, we're prepared to take our responsibilities very seriously if the dispute isn't resolved.

**Mr Sterling:** We've had 28 days of this bafflegab by the minister. Mr Minister, in spite of your threat late last week to the Ottawa press that you were going to legislate the teachers back to work, the teachers and the boards are not talking as of noon today. When are you going to take some real action?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** Either I wasn't reading very clearly or the member wasn't listening. The parties are meeting tomorrow morning with a mediator who is going to be in constant contact with the ERC. I think the member understands enough about the process to know that if that is happening, that is the appropriate way in which this dispute should be allowed to be resolved.

**Mr Sterling:** The appropriate way to take action is what I introduced two weeks ago, and that is to legislate the teachers back to work. Last week, Mr Minister, you said you would ensure that the school year for the students

would not be jeopardized. How are you going to ensure that?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** By not being hesitant to take whatever action will be necessary when this dispute is resolved to ensure that the time that's been lost is appropriately made up. That's something I've indicated very clearly to the commission, that's something I know it will be looking at in terms of how this dispute is brought to a conclusion and that's something, quite frankly, which I intend to deliver on.

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** My question is also to the Minister of Education and it also concerns the two strikes in the Ottawa-Carleton area. First of all, we have to make very clear that it is the minister who has twice, over the course of the last number of weeks, intervened in this dispute, first by saying he felt that the school board in Ottawa could bargain in a more creative fashion. He then last week, four or five days ago, said, "We now begin to measure everything by days."

If you look at the comments that were in the press, on TV and on the radio over the weekend, there was a clear sense that if the parties had not resolved this issue by this morning the minister was going to move. What is worse is that by now trying to distance himself again and saying it's up to the Education Relations Commission, in effect both parties can say, "We don't really need to do much because the minister has indicated that he's going to step in and resolve this."

Minister, what faith do we have that this is going to be resolved and what are you directly and personally prepared to do if those discussions fail?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** If the member had taken all the comments I made when I indicated what he quoted to me and to the House, I think he would know that I continued to reiterate within my response then, as I do now, the role that the Education Relations Commission has to play in this process and that in fact it's not appropriate for me as minister or for the cabinet to act without that advice coming from the commission. That's a law that was in place long before we came to exist and even before the previous government existed. So that is there and it's the process we need to follow. Whether we like it or not, that's the process we have in place now.

Again, what I can say to the member is that I'm satisfied, as a result of the actions that are happening now, that there is a possibility that the dispute can be resolved and resolved quickly this week. Clearly, if that doesn't happen then there is a responsibility on the commission, on me as minister and on the government to take other appropriate actions.

**Mr Beer:** I think everyone in this House, and certainly all the parents and students in the Ottawa-Carleton area, hope fervently that that in fact will happen, but I think we have another question to ask: What have we, and more specifically what have you, learned from this particular strike? We know there are others on the horizon. It goes right back to the management of the education system by you and your government, it goes right back to the 1% in transfer payments, and it goes right back to the kind of

direction you are giving to school boards and to the secondary school federation and other teachers' federations.

The question is this, Minister: Are you prepared to come back into the House at the end of this week—when this has been successfully resolved, we hope—and indicate clearly to all school boards, to all the teachers' federations, just what the government is prepared to accept in terms of wage and benefit settlements for the rest of this year?

**Hon Mr Silipo:** I think I have indicated on more than one occasion that I don't believe it's appropriate or necessary for us to bring in wage controls, if that's what the member is asking for.

Having said that, I think I and other ministers have indicated clearly that we're in a time when in fact there have to be more realistic expectations on the part of teacher and other employee groups in terms of wage expectations. I think the indications we've seen in some jurisdictions and the indications we've seen in our own negotiations with the provincial school teachers are an example of that kind of approach, coupled with, I might add, an approach by the employer, the school boards, in the provincial schools and us, the ministry, in terms of addressing some other issues that were important to the employee groups.

I think that's the approach that needs to be taken. As I indicated earlier in the House, over the next couple of days we will also be indicating further ways in which, through the transition funds that we have yet to allocate with respect to education, we can be of a little help in that respect.

1430

#### DRUG BENEFITS

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Minister, you and all the members of your government should be aware that April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month across Canada. The minister will also be aware that people with Parkinson's disease are forced to pay an outrageous \$2.31 for a six-cent pill which is sold in Canada under the name of Eldepryl by the company Deprenyl Research Ltd.

Since 1990, the Ontario government has funnelled \$5.2 million of taxpayers' money towards the purchase of Eldepryl for patients under the Ontario drug benefit plan. Could the minister tell this House what steps she has taken to ensure that Ontario taxpayers and people with Parkinson's disease are not being gouged by an unscrupulous private company?

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** I think that question is more appropriately addressed to my colleague the Minister of Health.

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy):** There was an article in the newspaper over the weekend which brought to light some of the statistics the member opposite used in his question. In fact, in today's paper there is some rebuttal of those numbers from the company, quoting the executive vice-president, Dr Martin Barkin. There are some other numbers that come to light, and as I

understand it, the company will be holding a press conference today. If I look at what was in the paper today, they talk about the costs actually being \$1.51, not 6 cents.

But let me step back from that for a moment, because I think the member raises a very important issue around the cost of drugs. He will know that one of the things we have been facing with the increased cost of the Ontario drug benefit plan is the increased cost of drugs themselves, and most particularly new drugs coming on to the market. We do have an ongoing issue with respect to all of the provinces and the federal government around this issue, particularly in light of recent suggestions that there may be a move to extend patent protection and do away with compulsory licensing, which I know the member will know about. We will probably face even more serious concerns in this area, and there is a need for a comprehensive national pricing policy—

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Could the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** At this time I can tell you that with the drug reform secretariat that has been set up and some of the policies we are developing, we are attempting to deal with this kind of issue both with respect to manufacturers and with respect to distributors such as the company in question.

**Mr Jim Wilson:** Thank you for your statement. It is interesting that the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations won't comment on an unscrupulous business practice. The minister is aware that the company that distributes Eldepryl is owned by a former NDP member of this Legislature, Dr Morton Shulman. Dr Shulman's company has reportedly made a profit of \$10 million on the backs of people suffering from Parkinson's disease. Minister, you and your government came to office wrapped in the flag of social justice. Eldepryl is being sold at an incredible 3,750% markup. Is this the NDP's idea of social justice?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** Again I would suggest to the member that at this point in time I am not sure he has his numbers right. I would like some further clarification, as I understand will be in the press conference that is taking place today.

I think I have been very clear around the issue of the problem of drug costs and the increase in drug costs that we have been experiencing in this province and in this country. I don't support profits that can't be explained as a result of the cost of research and development, with respect to what a fair profit is.

When the drug plan, the Ontario taxpayers and individual consumers are facing that, with what is essentially a very important, lifesaving product with respect to medications, it is a serious problem for all of us. I think he would agree, and with his past experience with respect to the federal government he would know the problems we face with this on a national level.

Let me simply say that I continue to be concerned and I appreciate the concerns he has raised. We will attempt, in the actions we are taking, to follow up on them.



## GAME AND FISH BILL

**Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay):** My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Late last year, Mr Minister, I recall that you introduced amendments to the Game and Fish Act. Since that time, I have received a lot of correspondence on several particular sections of the act. Today I would like to ask a question on one.

Perhaps most notably, there has been a concern raised with regard to the changes around hunting and sporting dogs. I am concerned that the change will allow conservation officers the authority, with no liability, to shoot hunting dogs that are trespassing or running at large. Can the minister clarify for me whether this is the case, and if it is, why?

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for native affairs):** I appreciate the question. This has been the subject of a great deal of concern expressed particularly in rural Ontario.

As the member would know, these amendments to the Game and Fish Act have been introduced by three successive governments, and hopefully they will be passed. There are two matters here, though: dogs running at large and the question of trespass. There are two separate issues and two separate sections of the bill.

In the bill, the matter of trespass does not allow for a conservation officer to shoot dogs. However, there is a separate section of the bill that does deal with dogs running at large and running deer. If the conservation officer is satisfied that there are dogs running deer and that are harmful to those deer, then he can shoot. In the current bill, the legislation now in effect, conservation officers are able to do this during the hunting season. The change in this bill would allow conservation officers the same right and responsibility in closed seasons as well.

**Mr Waters:** While this clarifies your intention somewhat, I still feel there's an awful lot of confusion, even after understanding that different sections of the act are separate. Is the minister willing to make an effort to improve the knowledge of the act and what the amendments mean?

**Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce):** Oh boy, an advertising campaign.

**Hon Mr Wildman:** While not exactly an advertising campaign, as suggested by the member opposite, we are preparing a fact sheet for all interested parties. It will be distributed to all members of the Legislature as well, which will make it possible for members and their constituency assistants to explain the different sections of the act.

Also, we are prepared to look at changes to the section dealing with trespass to ensure that the intent of the clause is actually put in place. On section 80, we're prepared also to look at clarification of the term "running at large," which can be dealt with through the regulations.

These are important matters. I agree with the member that all members of the House and members of the public should be aware of the issues. That's why we're preparing the fact sheet.

## JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** My question is to the Attorney General, concerning how he continues to fall far short of the standards expected of his office. In addition to the embarrassing Mary Hogan affair, we now have the embarrassing Emily Carasco affair.

The minister knows that in 1988 the former government, under then Attorney General Ian Scott, established the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Judicial Appointments. One of the expressly stated goals of this committee was to remove any unwarranted criticism of political bias or patronage in appointments to the judiciary. Legal observers were therefore astonished last week to find that committee member Emily Carasco, now a federal NDP candidate and an NDP appointee to the committee since 1990, had been promoted by the Attorney General to chair of the committee in the midst of a Windsor-area NDP nomination convention.

This appointment was announced only four days before the NDP nomination. The evidence also suggests this appointment was used for partisan purposes at the nomination meeting itself to better Ms Carasco's chances of winning.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Does the member have a question?

**Mr Chiarelli:** My question is this: It is obvious that the Attorney General, or Ms Carasco, used the sensitive and non-partisan chair of the advisory committee on judicial appointments for crass partisan purposes. Will the Attorney General immediately ask for her resignation in view of the obvious political tainting of the judicial appointments process in Ontario?

**Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General):** It's unfortunate the member opposite didn't put all the facts before the House. First of all, the committee itself selects its chair. I did not select the chair of the committee. The committee, the majority of whom are still members who were appointed by the former government of Ontario, selected Ms Carasco as the chair of the committee.

The member does not do the committee justice. The committee is an advisory committee, as I said. The majority of the members on the committee are still members appointed by the former government. The role of that committee is to advertise openings on the provincial bench. It is to solicit applications and conduct interviews. The committee decides by majority vote and, I might say, in almost all cases decides on the basis of consensus who will be recommended to be appointed as a judge.

1440

**The Speaker:** Will the minister conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Hampton:** The fact that many of the members on the committee were appointed by the former Liberal government of Ontario and that they decided that Ms Carasco should be the chair, to me says that this has nothing to do with politics except in the mind of the member opposite.

**Mr Chiarelli:** None of the appointees by the Liberals were appointed four days before a very high-profile

nominating convention. The minister told last Thursday's Windsor Star, "I want to look at it to see if there's an issue here," adding that he would make a decision in about two weeks. He obviously has made his decision. In the same article, Ms Carasco said, "Surely there are more important things in the justice system for a justice critic to be looking at."

When the Attorney General and the new chair of the judicial appointments advisory committee cannot see the significance of how their conduct will increase public cynicism in the administration of justice and in government generally, then maybe it's time they both resigned. Will the Attorney General agree that the circumstances around the appointment of a high-profile active NDP candidate as chair of this committee creates the appearance of political bias in appointments to the judiciary, and will he now ensure she is immediately removed?

**Hon Mr Hampton:** Again, to set the facts before the House, the fact of the matter is this: This is not a partisan activity in any way. This is a committee which receives applications and interviews candidates and then makes recommendations.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order. Will the member for York Centre come to order.

**Hon Mr Hampton:** I'll attempt over the din on the other side to complete the answer. The committee has selected a chair of its committee. My understanding is that this process was completed some weeks ago. I merely made the announcement following the request from the committee.

There are very high-profile members of the Liberal Party on this committee. Some of the members of this committee have even given, if I might, extensive policy advice to the Liberal Party federally and provincially. It's interesting: I do not hear the member opposite calling for those resignations.

I believe the chair of the committee should have the freedom to participate in the political process. I believe the chair of the committee should have freedom of speech and freedom to express herself. In my mind, the chair of the committee has done nothing wrong.

**The Speaker:** Will the minister conclude his response, please.

**Hon Mr Hampton:** The chair of the committee continues to do very good work on the committee. I believe that is where the matter should rest: with the committee.

#### TRILLIUM BOOK AWARD

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. Madam Minister, your ministry took part in the Trillium Book Award to Margaret Atwood just over a week ago. At that time she received a \$12,000 cheque and your ministry, according to Brian Beattie, paid the \$3,300 round trip business class airfare at the request of Ms Atwood.

Our concern is that while we applaud her being recognized for her literary talents, we are concerned about

what alternatives your ministry considered before booking and paying for this airfare. Could you not have considered having the ceremony at some time when Ms Atwood was back in Canada or indeed in Ontario? Would you not have thought of asking her publisher, perhaps, to pay? Finally, do you agree that the taxpayers of this province should pay the airfare for a recipient of a \$12,000 award?

**Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications):** The Trillium Book Award is one of Canada's most prestigious literary awards, comparable to the Governor General's Award, and we are proud to showcase Ontario writing and publishing. Since the award was established in 1987 the practice has been to pay expenses for the Trillium jury, finalists and winner to attend both the news conferences to announce the short list and the reception to announce the winner. The cost of the ticket was accommodated within the Trillium award budget. The award budget was scrutinized and adjusted to compensate. For example, for the first time there was a cash bar at the reception. We did scrutinize the budget to make those accommodations.

**Mrs Marland:** I am floored that this minister, who has been in this House a year and a half, had to read that answer. That is unmitigated gall, in my opinion. You should at least know what is going on in your ministry. Perhaps, Madam Minister, you can answer the next question. Perhaps you can tell us—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Mrs Marland:** This is the same ministry which is rejecting hundreds of requests for grants from small performing and visual arts groups around this province at the same time it saw fit to approve a \$3,300 airfare round trip from Paris for this recipient.

I have here a copy of the Management Board guidelines for international travel and I would like the minister to tell this House under which of these guidelines the payment of that fare qualified, because according to my review, there is nothing in the Management Board guidelines that would either approve beforehand or retroactively the payment of that fare for Ms Atwood. In fact, the guidelines actually specify that approval cannot be given retroactively, which in our understanding is what had actually happened in her ministry without her knowing anything about it.

**Hon Mrs Haslam:** I can only reiterate how important Margaret Atwood is to the writers of this community. The Trillium Book Award is a major award. We are very pleased we were able to offer this so that Ms Atwood could attend. I will agree that we scrutinized the budget, checked over what we could and could not do and offered a cash bar. We did not pay for any of those things in order for us to allow Ms Atwood to attend this very prestigious award.



1450

## ENERGY CONSERVATION

**Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls):** My question is for the Minister of Energy. The recession has destroyed many jobs in my riding. Because of free trade many companies have closed their Canadian subsidiary operations regardless of their profitability and efficiency; for instance, 2,300 jobs at the General Motors foundry in St Catharines.

I would like to look at Niagara Falls and tell you what is happening there. We have many major power users, large, heavy industries that have located there since the turn of the century because of cheap power from the falls. Some of these companies I have toured, such as Carborundum Pulpstones, Cyanamid, Norton Advanced Ceramics and Washington Mills. I have spoken to the business people and the union people, and they have told me of their concern about the rising power bills, which they feel may result in plant closures.

Mr Minister, what can you tell me and my constituents that will help keep the power bills down and these jobs in my riding?

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions and acting Minister of Energy):** The member raises an important question because the kind of companies she is referring to find themselves faced with a contradiction, a contradiction that says on the one hand—they've been pushing this through their organizations over the last number of years—that Ontario Hydro should be allowed to proceed to build large new supply options across the province to keep the energy supply secure in this province. On the other hand, they are very concerned about the price increases we've seen in the last couple of years, price increases which result from that old philosophy of build everything you need and might need into the future.

The answer for the future has to be that we build a much more efficient society in this province, a society that uses energy in a much more efficient way than in the past. Hydro and the Ministry of Energy have a number of programs that are designed to help industries right across this province to use energy much more efficiently and to start the process of reducing their energy bills.

**Ms Harrington:** I firmly believe that in the long term we have to have stable and attractive power rates in this province. Right now I must ensure that these major power users take advantage of the efficiency programs being set up and that they know our government is here to help them. Mr Minister, how do they find out about these programs you are offering?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** The programs, which are offered by both Ontario Hydro and the Ministry of Energy, deal, specifically for Ontario Hydro, with electricity consumption. Ontario Hydro has a number of programs that deal with electricity consumption and the Ministry of Energy also has programs that deal with all the other energy fuels, so it would depend in part on whether they are concerned about just electricity or the overall consumption of energy in their operation. My advice would be that they contact

both the Ministry of Energy and Hydro so that we can attempt to coordinate the best advice overall in terms of energy-efficient use in the particular industry in question.

## RYERSON POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. We know that Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, headed by your cabinet colleague's husband, has lobbied for full university status for some time. We also now know that the Council of Ontario Universities advised you last year to conduct an external examination of Ryerson's request, including a review of the faculty's academic qualifications.

The minister will know that the doctorates of several faculty members have come under serious questioning in the last few days. Mr Minister, why did you refuse the proposal of your own advisory body and why did you reject an external review of Ryerson's academic and other credentials?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development):** About a year ago I asked the Ontario Council on University Affairs to advise me on the advisability of exploring university status for Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, and also Nipissing University College in North Bay, and I did get advice back from it, which was of a twofold nature. The first was that the council had no particular objection to moving with regard to those initiatives, and in particular with regard to Ryerson, and that this should be a limited mandate institution at the university level devoted to applied affairs.

Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, as you know, is a long-standing institution in this province about which we know a great deal and whose reputation is well founded and for which we have a great deal of respect. It seemed to me that what was proposed by the Ontario Council on University Affairs as advice to me as minister—and I underline, as advice—was too far-ranging and too comprehensive with regard to an established institution in the post-secondary system. I did not reject specific initiatives of review that might pertain to particular aspects of the institution, and indeed we have a good deal of information coming from that institution now in a preliminary examination of the acceptability of the proposal. I certainly did not reject out of hand in any respect the investigation of degrees.

**Mr Daigeler:** Minister, it is you who has put the Ryerson institute in a rather embarrassing situation right now. If you had accepted the recommendation of your own body last year, I'm sure the matter of the faculty qualifications would have been brought up and investigated. That's at issue here.

You did not follow through on the suggestions—and wise suggestions, I would like to say—of your own advisory committee, so I would like to ask again, Minister, why are you so intent on pushing through the review of the Ryerson qualification for full university status? Are there any special reasons you're hiding from us?

**Hon Mr Allen:** The suggestion that I am pushing through Ryerson's university status regardless of all considerations is a bunch of hogwash. It really is.

The critic may well know that what is happening across the university world, for example, in Great Britain, is that polytechnical institutes are across the board being given university status in recognition of a new status of applied studies at university levels. That's not an uncommon thing today.

I am not pushing something. Something is happening in the larger world of higher education that I am trying to accommodate in Ontario for the best benefit of those people who follow technology studies in a rigorous way in our system. That's all I'm trying to do. I'm sure it's all the member would want me to do.

#### GAME AND FISH BILL

**Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville):** To the Minister of Natural Resources: Last week, Mr Minister, in reply to one of my questions, you stated that you had consulted with organizations such as the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the deer hunters and a number of other groups concerning wildlife and Bill 162. Can you explain why farm groups, and even the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and probably the minister himself, don't really agree with your claims in trying to define what a farmer is? Do you feel it's your mandate to define what a farmer is, Mr Minister of Natural Resources?

**Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and minister responsible for native affairs):** Last week I indicated that the Wildlife Working Group, in preparation of the wildlife strategy, had consulted widely and had representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture on it.

I'm not sure the member meant to indicate that I as minister did not agree with myself, but I would point out to the member that in the current Game and Fish Act there is a definition of "farmer." This is not something new. This is in the current act.

The proposed changes in Bill 162 are a matter of concern to farmers. I met with a group of deer farmers this morning and they explained that to me. I indicated that we would consult with the Minister of Agriculture and Food and with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture on how we might rework that wording, because we don't anticipate that we should be defining "farmer" any differently than it is in the current act.

1500

**Mr Villeneuve:** I really appreciate that the minister will not change the definition of "farmer." He has just said that, and I will accept that. I think the minister knows full well that the only consultations the ministry undertook were typical of this government. They were by invitation. Indeed, the federation of agriculture and the deer farmers have not had a great deal of input into Bill 162 to this point. I'm pleased to hear that the minister will indeed be consulting.

Can the minister explain why it's necessary to give his ministry power in Bill 162 to ban without appeal such animals as rabbits, goats, bison, beefalo and fish? This bill,

unless it's changed, will put them under your jurisdiction. Tell me why that's happening.

**Hon Mr Wildman:** I think the member for the united counties is confused. First, there is nothing in the bill that bans animals. The fact is that the bill is designed to deal with wildlife and to ensure that the Ministry of Natural Resources can carry out its mandate to protect wildlife species in this province. The concerns that were raised this morning when I met with the deer farmers related to consultation. They and the member are confused in that the consultation he's referring to was on the wildlife strategy, not Bill 162. As he knows, Bill 162 is just an update, a more modernized wording of legislation that was first prepared by his government, then subsequently by the Liberal government and now by us. This is nothing new. It's been around for five to six years.

#### MOTIONS

##### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr Cooke moved that Mr Arnott exchange places with Mr Murdoch (Grey) and Mr Harris exchange places with Mr Carr and Mr Martin exchange places with Mr Wessinger in order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

#### PETITIONS

##### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming):** I have a couple of petitions to present today. The first one reads:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the French Language Services Act, 1986, Bill 8, continues to elevate tensions and misunderstandings over language issues throughout the province, not only at the provincial but also at municipal levels; and

"Whereas the current government disputes its self-serving select committee and intends to encourage increased use of French in the courts, schools and other provincial services to ensure that the French Language Services Act is working well to the best of their concentrated efforts; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of government to the taxpayer are being forced even higher due to the duplication of departments, translations etc to comply not only with the written but also with the unwritten intent of the French Language Services Act; and

"Whereas the spiralling cost of education to the taxpayers are being forced even higher due to the demands of yet another board of education—French language school board,

"We, the undersigned, request that the French Language Services Act be repealed and its artificial structures dismantled immediately, and English be declared as the official language of Ontario in governments, its institutions and services."



## OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

**Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming):** I have another petition here.

"Whereas Her Majesty the Queen, at her coronation in 1953, took a personal oath to the people of Canada, and Canadians have always reciprocated with oaths of allegiance and service to the person of the sovereign;

"Whereas it is our right and duty to take oaths of allegiance and service in such form;

"Whereas Ontario regulation 144/91 made under the Police Services Act, 1990, denies Ontarians this right,

"We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, loyal to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor in Council be requested to revoke Ontario regulation 144/91 and restore the traditional oath of service to Her Majesty for police personnel in Ontario."

## KRISTINA D'ANDREA

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"The Minister of Health for the province of Ontario review the case of Kristina D'Andrea, a member of our faith community who suffers from mucopolysaccharide disease. We feel that the bone marrow transplant that she requires to live should be done here in Ontario rather than forcing the family to go to the United States. If this little girl is forced to go to the United States, we feel OHIP should pay for the full cost of the operation, as Toronto Sick Children's hospital said they would do the operation and then they refused.

"In justice, we feel you should do whatever you can to give this child a chance to live. We thank you for your time and cooperation."

This partial petition, because I understand there are a great many more, probably thousands more, is signed by over 600 citizens of London, Ontario. I have affixed my name to this and I'll put it to you for your consideration, Mr Speaker.

## SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

**Mr David Wininger (London South):** I'm pleased to table a petition signed by 82 concerned members of the parent-teacher association of St Francis separate school in my riding of London South. The petition reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas St Francis separate school in London has been overcrowded since it was constructed some 20 years ago; and

"Whereas we have had portables on this site for almost all of these years and these portables now are in poor condition; and

"Whereas many of our students face the prospect of spending almost all of their elementary school career in portables,

"We, the undersigned members of the parent-teacher association of St Francis school, petition the Legislative

Assembly of Ontario that the Ontario government continue to allocate funds for capital expenditures for school buildings and that the Ministry of Education allocate funds for new construction at St Francis school in the current year."

I submit this petition and I have affixed my name to the petition.

## CHILD CARE SERVICES

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** I have a petition which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, request that the minister take action immediately to rectify the further salary inequity announced December 2, 1991, for early childhood educators. We believe that the principles of freedom of choice, pay equity and non-discrimination form the backbone of our democratic society. Furthermore, parents must retain the right to select the day care of their choice."

This petition is submitted by 53 parents from Burlington, residents of Halton Centre, and I've affixed my name to the petition.

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** I have a number of petitions signed by 64 Ontario residents representing both the management and employees of a number of Ontario companies, including Ronson Paving and Construction, Foto Building Supplies Ltd, M&G Steel Co, Gillanders Construction and McConnell Contractors Ltd, which read:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

I here affix my signature as well.

1510

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT, 1992

## LOI DE 1992 SUR LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS

Resuming consideration of Bill 143, An Act respecting the Management of Waste in the Greater Toronto Area and to amend the Environmental Protection Act / Projet de loi 143, Loi concernant la gestion des déchets dans la région du grand Toronto et modifiant la Loi sur la protection de l'environnement.

**The Chair (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** Just to remind the House, this is the second sessional day. All amendments proposed to be moved to the bill shall be filed with the Clerk of the assembly by 4 o'clock on the last day, which is today. At 5:45 pm on that day, today, those amendments which have not yet been moved shall be deemed to have been moved and the Chair of the committee of the whole House shall interrupt the proceedings and shall, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary

to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendments thereto and report the bill to the House. Any divisions required shall be deferred until all remaining questions have been put, the members called in once and all deferred divisions taken in succession.

I also remind the members that if you wish to divide on any question or any amendment or any section, you must have at least five members standing.

**Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham):** Just for clarification, I've tabled this afternoon some motions we have. It didn't do much good when we were in committee, but I've got them at the table. I have the Liberal motions here and I just want to be sure whether or not there would be any further motions coming from the government. Does the government have any amendments to bring forward today?

**Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York):** At this point in time, no, we don't. There were quite a few amendments made when we were in the committee process in clause-by-clause, and the bill as it's reprinted is the way the government is bringing it forward today. I haven't got a copy of your proposed amendments, so I suppose the table will provide them for all members.

**Mr Cousens:** The process is one that continues to amaze the public at large and it happens to be the way an old-fashioned Legislature works. The government, which has the greatest number of seats, will at the end of this afternoon's session pass into law Bill 143.

We have gone through weeks and weeks of hearings, and to my mind there has just been no listening from the government. I am saying this before we start the afternoon: Anything we have to say this afternoon helps clear our chest. The tragedy is that there are many people outside this House who have tried to make their views heard and understood by the government. I'd just like to remind the House today as we begin this session that there are no further amendments by the government; I would be willing to put up a wager that there isn't an amendment of any meaning that could be put forward by either ourselves or the Liberals that this government would support.

It's a tragedy. It's one of the worst things I've seen happen. Right from the very beginning this is a government that has gone and done its own thing, without consideration of either the promises it made before it won the election on September 6, 1990—

Interjection.

**Mr Cousens:** I'll tell you what's different about it: It's that you're so sanctimonious about it. If there's anyone who's more sanctimonious, it's the Premier, the Minister of the Environment and the New Democrats, who said they would have a full environmental assessment for Keele Valley, and you haven't done it and you won't do it. If you vote for this, you're voting for the lies that have been said before. I shouldn't say "lies." You're voting for the misinformation that you and your government came out with.

What we're into this afternoon is another bit of a sham. I will participate in it reluctantly. I wish there was more I could do than just shout, raise my voice and make points, because the fact of the matter is, once a government has

won, as this one has, it seems to stop listening. They don't need to listen. They just go and do what they want.

Mr Chairman, before you begin the session, I just thought it would be worth while to make a few—

**The Chair:** Order. I just want to remind you that the more time you take in debating, the less time you have to debate the amendments.

Last Thursday we were debating section 2.1, which was introduced by the member for Brampton North and then was withdrawn; he is withdrawing it today. We have section 2.1 from the member for Markham. Would you please read your amendment.

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** On a point of order, Mr Chair: Section 2.1 was the subject of debate on Thursday last. I thought we had proceeded with that and that debate had not concluded with section 2.1. Just by way of explanation, I had submitted a new package of amendments today with the understanding that any subsequent amendments in the package that was presented on Thursday would be withdrawn.

In short, as a result I would like to proceed with a vote or a call of the question on the amendment as introduced by myself last Thursday. So the amendment for section 2.1 is not withdrawn; subsequent amendments are withdrawn in lieu of the amendments tabled today.

**The Chair:** My understanding was that you were withdrawing it today, but we'll pursue the debate. Please go on.

**Mr McClelland:** I have nothing further to say on section 2.1. I'm prepared to have a vote on the amendment. It will be deferred, of course, but you may put the question now.

**The Chair:** Are there any other questions on the amendment introduced by the member for Brampton North? We're ready to put the question.

Mr McClelland moves that the bill be amended by adding the following section:

"2.1(1) Within four months after the coming into force of this act, and every four months afterwards, the corporation shall prepare a written report setting out descriptions of all the sites the corporation is considering as possible sites for landfill waste disposal sites.

"(2) The corporation shall give a copy of the report to the Minister of the Environment and shall make copies of the report available to members of the public at no charge."

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote deferred.

**The Chair:** Mr Cousens.

**Mr Cousens:** I'm not going to proceed with the amendment I have; we're so short of time. The amendment that has just been deferred is very similar in many ways, so in order to proceed expeditiously on other matters before us this afternoon, though I have an important motion the fact is that many of the elements of it have already been discussed and are inherent to the wording the member for



Brampton North put forward. I will not proceed with my amendment 2.1.

**The Chair:** Are there any questions or comments on this statement? If not, then we'll proceed to the next amendment you have, which is to subsection 13(1).

Shall sections 3 through 12 carry?

**Interjections:** No.

**The Chair:** All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote deferred.

Section 13:

**The Chair:** Now we're dealing with subsection 13(1).

Mr Cousens moves that subsection 13(1) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted:

"Application

"(1) This part applies to,

"(a) landfill waste disposal sites located in any one or more of the regional or metropolitan municipalities described in subsection (1.1), the primary function of which is the disposal of waste generated in one or more of the regional or metropolitan municipalities described in that subsection over a period of at least twenty years; and

"(b) environmental assessments of landfill waste disposal sites referred to in clause (a).

"Regional and metropolitan municipalities

"(1.1) The regional and metropolitan municipalities referred to in subsection (1) are the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, the regional municipality of Durham, the regional municipality of Peel and the regional municipality of York."

Are there any questions or comments?

1520

**Mr Cousens:** In the document before us, which is Bill 143, the government has in its section 13 three key decisions it would like to see done: that there be a landfill waste disposal site located in Peel, one in Durham and one in the region of York.

This logic that the honourable minister has brought forward is flawed in so very many ways. I know my colleague the member for Mississauga South will comment on this as it relates to Peel. I can certainly relate as it affects York region, and you would expect the member for Durham West to deal with it as it affects his riding in Durham, but the fact is that the member for Durham West is keen to see something that I think his own constituents would have alarm over.

Why, in the first place, would the government want to have the most expensive land in Canada allocated for use as a landfill site? Why would we do that when there are opportunities for landfill sites outside of the greater Toronto area? Why would you choose the greater Toronto area when there is a site near Kirkland Lake where there is at least some possibility of interest in that site? Why do we have a wall around the greater Toronto area in dealing with our garbage and say we will solve all our garbage problems within the GTA?

We start from the wrong premise. First of all, let's begin to be very creative in dealing with the 3Rs. Let's all of us make a conscientious effort to make sure we are doing everything possible to reduce, reuse, recycle—everything possible. Let us also have minds that are open to possibilities that can solve the long-term problems for the greater Toronto area.

I am dumfounded that just over a year ago, the Minister of the Environment sent a letter to the then Metropolitan Toronto committee that was looking at it, giving it encouragement to try to find a site outside of Metro Toronto. The Minister of the Environment said, "You're on the right direction; see if you can find another site," so they did. They went to task, spent millions of dollars—close to \$10 million, I think; it might be more—and identified a possible site.

There hasn't been anyone on this side of the House—unless the Liberals have; you never know what they're going to do. We certainly would not want to force any community to be an unwilling host for someone else's garbage, but Kirkland Lake, at the Adams mine site, had a feeling that there was a possibility of considering that. There was a referendum on the November election of 1991 giving the people a chance to express their feelings about it, and 69% of the people in that community said, "Let's at least look at it."

It would mean there would be jobs created in Kirkland Lake. It would mean that the rail line going from Metro Toronto, somewhere in the MacMillan yard in Vaughan, could be used as a depot, and that the garbage would then be shipped up via rail to the north country. It would mean that the rail lines would have increased viability in a depressed market. The railroads were very, very busy years ago, bringing the ore from the north; now, with the mines closing down as much as they are and the economy as depressed as it is, the railroad would have an extra reason for its existence. So there would be jobs made available to those people in Ontario Northland and in the other rail networks involved in shipping the waste through to the Adams mine site.

The Adams mine site, when you look at it, is an impressive site.

**Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South):** For a hole in the ground.

**Mr Cousens:** For a hole in the ground. Anyway, it is. When you're in charge of garbage, you'd love to have a place like this that seems, to someone who doesn't necessarily know all there is to know about holes in the ground—we're getting deeper and deeper in another hole created by the New Democrats, but that's another kind of hole. The economy is bad. Everything you guys have touched has turned to something that's a four-letter word: dirt.

The Adams mine site has the potential of being a 20-year hole in the ground—there are three holes there—that could service the needs of the greater Toronto area, but the bill as we have it makes it impossible to look at a solution outside of the GTA to dispose of our garbage. What are we stuck with? We're stuck with a bill by the minister that

says, "We'll have one in Peel, one in York and one in Durham."

As it stands, what this bill really means, ladies and gentlemen of the House, is that York region, with Keele Valley, is going to be the primary dump site for Metropolitan Toronto. I don't like it, the people there don't like it, but it's going to happen, when you know full well there are opportunities to get rid of our waste outside of the greater Toronto area.

We're dealing with a fundamental breakdown in thinking and in the possibility of finding a practical solution to Metro's waste. That is closed off by other parts of this bill. We're now faced with what we really do with this act.

Bill 143 is really putting the onus on Peel to come up with this landfill site. I sincerely hope the member for Mississauga South will take some time to discuss the problems around the Peel sites that have been selected and the cost that's gone into it. The feeling from the community about the way this government has mismanaged the search for a site within Peel is really an example of how not to do business. I sincerely hope the member for Mississauga South will do that.

With York region, I have never in my experience seen the tame and mild Eldred King, the chairman of our region, come forward in such—

Interjection.

**Mr Cousens:** He is. I mean, you're talking to a gentle man. The presentation he made with legal counsel on behalf of York region was a strong statement of anger and indignation about the way this government is dealing with the issue. You heard representatives from my riding, the riding of Markham, you heard the mayor of Vaughan, Mayor Jackson, along with her legal counsel, and you heard from the mayor of King; you heard from representatives from just about every community in York region saying, "Don't do it to us," and it's happening.

I find the bill offensive and would like to find ways where we could move away from certain sections of it that are going to make it necessary to find a landfill site in York region or in Durham or in Peel when in fact you know the better solution is found outside the geographic area to which the garbage site for Toronto is being confined. The most expensive land in Canada is here. The land has a value far greater than other parts of the province. Even in a community such as in Kirkland Lake, where there is a sense that enough people in the community would take that as an alternative site to be considered, it is ruled out.

We started talking about this bill on October 24, and at that point most municipal politicians who wanted to get re-elected were out on the election trail, trying to speak to their constituents to get ready for mid-November. As a result, it wasn't until after they were elected that they had a chance to study the bill.

When finally it became very obvious to people, more than just those of us who were on the bill examining it all the time, that this was a problem, there was enough of a reaction that myself and our House leader, in cooperation with the Liberals—when you're in opposition and there're only a small number of you, you end up making friends

even with the Liberals. If you go back a few years ago and you realize that they helped get us into this mess, and you go back a few years before that and realize the Conservatives helped make the mess, I think there isn't anyone who can say their hands are clean in dealing with the garbage issue.

1530

But the fact of the matter is, and it's worth saying and putting on the record, that the critic for the Ministry of the Environment in the Liberal Party, the member for Brampton North, and myself, with the support of both our caucuses, said when the House recessed at Christmastime that we would not allow this House to rise without at least having several weeks of hearings on this bill so that the public would have a chance to respond to it. I would like to thank the Liberals for their support of this initiative, because those were some of the most painful weeks I've ever put in, to sit in committee and see what was happening. There was nothing wrong with the presentations that were presented, but the stonewalling by the New Democrats was something that left an awful lot to be desired. What happened at that time was that although recommendations were brought forward by the communities at large that would support the amendments I have before the House right now, every one of those suggestions and recommendations was defeated.

All I would hope for is that out of the wasteland of five weeks—one week listening to each other make amendments and have them voted down, and another four weeks in which we had a chance to look at other options—there may be some way in which the public at large would at least sense that the government is taking power away from them in the process of setting up a new administration to look after our waste.

Our feeling here is, let's just begin to have a plan that doesn't mean that waste sites have to be in Durham, Peel or York. Let's see if we can come up with something. If this minister had done what she had promised to do so that we would have known where the potential landfill sites were going to be, it might have changed the hearings quite a bit. Then people would have had a sense of knowing the possible locations, whether in Whitevale or the Rouge Valley or some other part of each of our municipalities, that that was where the landfill site was going to be. But the Interim Waste Authority has not come forward with its list of potential sites that are being considered for landfill, and because of that the public has become rather apathetic about what really is going to happen with garbage.

I'm not apathetic. I'm really proud of the way in which our own caucus is supportive of other initiatives. I don't think our amendment here today begins to solve the problem. I don't think the bill as a whole solves the problem.

The legislation that's going to be tabled by the Minister of the Environment to speed up the environmental assessment process might, that one thing alone, negate the whole need for Bill 143. If there was a way in which people could participate in a process to appeal environmental assessments and do it more expeditiously so that some people couldn't delay the whole process and protract it for long periods of time, we would be further ahead. The fact



of the matter is that I have not seen that legislation. It was referenced in the speech from the throne and I look forward to seeing it because maybe within that—did you not indicate there are going to be changes to the Environmental Assessment Act?

**Mrs Marland:** Yes, she did.

**Mr Cousens:** I left with that feeling from the speech from the throne. The minister was looking as if she hadn't heard about it before, but I know she has. She's got a lot on her mind; I don't know what it is.

**Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area):** The minister is remembering a statement she made in this House last week, so presumably—

**The Chair:** Order.

**Mrs Marland:** She did announce it last week, that there will be revisions—

**Mr Cousens:** The whole bill has been tabled.

Interjection.

**Mr Cousens:** No, I know that it will be tabled, and I haven't seen that.

**Mrs Marland:** It's only a statement.

**Mr Cousens:** It's only a statement. We haven't seen the bill yet. A bill to change the whole environmental assessment process would go a long way to improve the system we're into now, but this government still doesn't know when it is going to do that. Broken promises, broken hope and great disappointment: I haven't talked to anyone who is thrilled with the actions that are being taken by this government.

I understand that the member for Durham West feels it's just a great bill. I hope his constituents will have a real good look at what he has said in committee and how he has supported this, because what he is really saying when he supports the government's motion on this section is that he wants to have a garbage dump in Durham. I have to say he would be doing a bigger favour if he said to his constituents, "I'm prepared as well to look at a site outside the greater Toronto area so that we might be able to look at a place that isn't necessarily as unsound as this is or we might find a spot that would be better."

Anyway, we present this for the concern and consideration of the committee and I indeed hope there is some willingness to take away the sense in which there would have to be a landfill site in each of those three areas. It may be the beginning of a crack that says maybe we can look elsewhere outside the greater Toronto area. That is the kind of intention I have behind this amendment, and as well intended as it might be, I also have the sense of knowing it's not going to go too far, but you have to try or they wouldn't send us down here to at least put the case forward.

**Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West):** I would like to make a couple of comments to bring another perspective to the record we've heard so far. I'd like to begin with the Adams mine site and the whole concept about the willing host.

What we heard from the member is that there was a referendum in Kirkland Lake, Engelhart and Larder Lake for the landfill site to be in the Adams mine site. In fact the Adams mine site is in Boston township and the people who live in Boston township were not allowed to participate in the referendum, were not asked and were in fact—

**Mr Cousens:** That is not true.

**Mr Wiseman:** That is true.

**Mr Cousens:** "Not allowed" is not true. They don't live in the municipality in which the referendum was.

**The Chair:** Order. The member for Markham, please take your seat. When you wish to take the floor, all you have to do is to stand up after he is finished.

**Mr Wiseman:** In fact I would agree with the member. In fact they were not allowed to participate because they did not live in Kirkland Lake or Larder Lake or Engelhart. He is correct about that. So what we have here is a group of people who live around the township making a decision for the people who live in the township. To that I think we would all have to agree, because you've just stated that. That's the truth.

What we know is that there was a poll done in Boston township, Catharine township and Pacaud township, which is south of the Adams mine site; 164 homes were phoned and 162 opposed the use of the Adams mine site for waste disposal. I think we have to consider that.

Coming from the region where I do, where landfill sites have been located in Pickering, with the majority support of the rest of Durham region against the support of the local council, I have a great number of residents who are sympathetic to the notion that you must be consulted.

I'd also like to speak about the transportation. You made the point. What in fact would happen is that about a million and a half tonnes of Metro garbage would be driven to Vaughan, compressed, put on rail cars and shipped up to the Adams mine site, where it would then be sorted, separated and 8% of it would be recycled, with 92% going into the hole. I want to deal with that in a minute.

The projected cost is \$600 million, and I think to myself, what would \$600 million do in the recycling programs of southern Ontario to get them off the ground? Yet the idea here is to just put it on a train and ship it north. To me, that's false economy and the lost opportunity to invest the \$600 million in the plants, in the recycling centres and in the whole of the recycling industry. We'll see how that works out a little later on.

The Adams mine site could not take all of Metro's garbage. It was to take a million and a half tonnes for 20 years, for a total of 22 million tonnes or so of Metro's garbage. There would still have been a need in the GTA for a site for another 3 million tonnes per year.

What we heard from the member is that he wants that all over Ontario. He wants everybody to be on the table. I think the new member for Brant-Haldimand would be interested to know that if he passes this piece of legislation, if he votes for it, then he is voting not just for a landfill site

for Metro's garbage, maybe in Dunnville, but he would be voting in favour of that incineration plant in Cayuga to burn Metro's garbage. What the member is saying is that he wants to put all of Ontario back on the table for Metro, and that Metro is the only municipality in all of Ontario that has the right to expropriate property in another municipality's jurisdiction.

1540

**Mr Cousens:** Whoever said that?

**Mr Wiseman:** That's what is in the—

**Mr Cousens:** That's a crock.

**Mr Wiseman:** It's implied by what you're saying.

**Mr Cousens:** You take the implication, you blow it up and you make a lie of it, or you Martel it.

**The Chair:** Please address the Chair.

**Mr Wiseman:** What in fact he wants to do is go back to the Solid Waste Management Steering Committee process that would put Marmora, Plympton, Essex, Lambton, all of these places, back on the table.

**Mr Cousens:** Mr Chair, I object.

**The Chair:** Is this a point of order, or do you object?

**Mr Cousens:** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: Let the honourable member stick to the facts. He is making up things that have nothing to do with what I said or think and is not—objection. He has no right to make implications or imply things as to what another member has to say. Speak from what I've said or don't speak at all, and speak the truth.

**The Chair:** Order, please. Take your seat. I just want to remind members that there is a procedure to follow. You're each given a turn to debate, so when it comes your time, you will be given that opportunity.

**Mr Cousens:** Don't deal with innuendo.

**Mr Wiseman:** This is not innuendo. The facts of the matter are that if this bill is defeated the way the member is asking, you have to look at the ramifications and the implications of that in terms of where the direction would go. This bill, very clearly brought to this House in a democratic process, if defeated would mean that all the things I have said would have to be back on the table, because the defeat of the bill would return it to the status quo, and as to the bill, to begin with.

**Mr Cousens:** Objection, Mr Chair.

**The Chair:** Order. Please take your seat. This is not a court of law. I don't take any objections; I take points of order. Do you have a point of order?

**Mr Cousens:** Very much so. The honourable member, if he was listening to me, is already misinterpreting what I said. If he's going to make statements in this House then he should speak—

**Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre):** That's not a point of order.

**Mr Cousens:** Well, come on, it's on the record. The one thing I have made very clear is a willing host. You talk about Marmora and other sites. They are not willing hosts. So there's no way you're going to start shoving someone's

garbage in someone's backyard who doesn't want it, and I have never said that. When you start saying that I'm intending that, that is wrong and I want you to correct yourself.

**The Chair:** I'd just like to make a suggestion. If you object to some of the comments that are made by the member for Durham West, take notes. After that, you will have a chance to debate it.

**Mr Wiseman:** Having said the above and not having any cause to retract or change any of the things I have just stated, I would like to move on to the next items I would like to talk about in terms of this bill.

That has to do with the potential for recycling and the potential for recycling to be the solution to a large part of the waste problem. Just to give a couple of examples, when we were in Kingston we heard from Alcan Recycling Canada that over the last two years somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$40 million of aluminum was thrown into the landfill sites. This was really quite unfortunate in terms of the potential this aluminum had for jobs, competitiveness, reduction in the amount of electrical energy that would be necessary to produce new aluminum and the fact that he said it's worth \$1,000 a tonne. Just for the information of the House, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 31,000 tonnes of aluminum is lost every year to the waste process.

When we were in Kingston we also heard from a tire recycler who put a tire in front of the table and showed us three jars of oil, tar and carbon black, all derived from a tire that he said could be recycled. So throughout southern Ontario people are being very innovative.

We also heard in this committee on a regular basis that there are more jobs available through recycling than there are through disposal.

In terms of cost, what we're looking at here in terms of cost is \$150 a tonne; actually it's \$152.50 that Metro's charging. Anybody who's recycling will recoup that right from the very start, but that money potentially is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$8 billion to \$12 billion, which would be very useful in the development of recycling and the positioning of Ontario industries in the international market for recycling and reduction and being able to then transport and sell those technologies overseas.

I want to clear up my last point, and the reality is that there is going to be a landfill site somewhere in Durham for Durham's garbage. It could be in anybody's riding, but the point to be made here is that for the first time in history the landfill site is going to be sited against criteria that have been developed and established by the Interim Waste Authority and that take into account agricultural land, hydrogeological state, proximity to social environments and a whole host of other criteria never evaluated before.

My closing point is that, unlike the previous government, which used an order in council to locate a landfill site in north Pickering and circumvented all of the democratic processes to do that and would not consider it against any other site in Durham, this process offers the opportunity of involvement of the people, the local municipal politicians and the IWA. Every site will be defined against the criteria established and brought into force when



this bill is passed, because it established the crown corporation of the Interim Waste Authority.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I know you tried to direct the debate to the amendment before us. I would like to point out to the member for Markham that while we seem to be debating whether the waste should go to Kirkland Lake or somewhere else in Ontario, as I read the motion before us it refers to landfill waste disposal sites located in any one or more of the regional municipalities. Therefore, I suggest that the submission we heard from the member for Markham and the subsequent debate are all out of order.

**The Chair:** The point of order has been made. The member for Markham, do you have a point of order?

**Mr Cousens:** In response, the fact is that the whole bill is out of order. If we were to deal with it correctly you really have to put the larger picture in place. The bill is forcing us to have our garbage, our landfill sites, within the greater Toronto area. What you have to deal with is the whole picture. To that extent the motion is not out of order at all and my comments are not out of order. If anything is out of order, it's Bill 143.

**Mr McClelland:** Not having the language of the amendment, I might ask if the third party critic has a copy of his amendments available. I would appreciate having them so I can follow the debate.

Having said that, I have two questions that relate to the section under debate that I'd like to put to the minister for her comment. The section says that each of the three regions will find a landfill site for dealing with waste generated for a period of at least 20 years. Is there any cap on the potential time limit, by way of example, with respect to what the member for Markham is saying in terms of having a more expansive view as far as geography is concerned? In terms of the time frame as well, is it possible, by way of example, that the Peel site could be 40, 50 or 60 years potentially?

The other question that relates to this particular section and I think ties in with the amendments is this. The minister says the section deals with the Environmental Assessment Act, but is it not true that subsequently, by delineating the geographic boundaries, she effectively eliminates one of the very provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act, which is to look at a broad range of environmental criteria to arrive at the best—not a better, not a good, but potentially the best—environmental solution? That is really an ancillary question. The one I would like to have, if I could, as a direct response is the cap on the time limit.

1550

I have a further question in terms of the York site. We know it will end up in York through the municipality of Metro Toronto. I asked this question during committee and did not receive a response, to the best of my knowledge. I reviewed the responses last evening that were tabled during committee. Is there anywhere you are aware of in North America that would have the potential capacity of a Keele Valley and a potential additional site that would last for at least 20 years, possibly 40, 50 or 60? Is there any-

where in North America that has that kind of burden put on the ecosystem in an area as small geographically as York? My understanding is that there is nowhere else in North America that would have that concentration of landfill. I wonder if you might be able to respond to that question, which was put to your staff and the ministry during committee.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** Let me make a couple of responses to the points made by the member for Brampton North and in fact to some of the less extraneous comments made by the member for Markham.

With respect to the 20 years, I think that if the member looks at this section of the legislation, he will see that the site for new landfills is for landfills that will have as their primary function the disposal of waste generated within the regional municipality over a period of at least 20 years. I think what you will find in the hearing before the Environmental Assessment Board is a great deal of debate about how long those landfills will last and how much waste those landfills will have to accommodate, because as the member is aware, the alternative to the landfills is increased reduction, reuse and recycling.

The debate before the board from some people will undoubtedly be that if we were more aggressive in the 3Rs we would need a much smaller landfill site or no landfill site at all, with other people saying that the objectives we have set ourselves of a 25% diversion from disposal by the end of 1992 and, at the time of the hearing, working on a 50% diversion from disposal by the year 2000 are in fact too ambitious and cannot be met as the economy, as we hope, is rebounding. That will be the debate before the board. That decision will be made by the board.

For the purposes of the site search, the legislation is quite clear that the Interim Waste Authority begins and conducts its search and prepares for the environmental assessment a site that will accommodate the disposal of waste in those regional municipalities for at least 20 years.

I want to spend a couple of minutes talking about the delineation of boundaries. With all due respect to the member for Brampton North, I think he is quite wrong in his characterization of the fact that boundaries are set in opposition to the Environmental Assessment Act. In fact, municipalities all across the province have said for many years: "Within this municipal boundary we are searching for a site. Here are the criteria. This is what we present to the board." In many cases they have come together with adjoining municipalities and conducted a joint waste management master plan. In many cases a city and a rural municipality have come together and jointly undertaken to find a disposal site. That is how the act has traditionally been interpreted. There has never been any question of whether that was an appropriate way.

Let me say that never has a municipality or a proponent gone before an Environment Assessment Board, to my knowledge or recollection, and said that it wanted to ask for an environmental assessment approval of a site in a municipality somewhere else on the basis of a resolution from the council of that municipality saying that it wanted somebody else's waste. The "happy host" criterion that was the foundation of the SWISC process and is cited by



the member for Markham in his justification of going to Kirkland Lake is, I think, very dubious legally and might well have resulted in an Environmental Assessment Board deciding that that was not a sufficient criterion on which to decide where a landfill site was to be located and might have resulted in the entire process being tossed out by the board. I think the results of that happening at the end of the day are too serious to contemplate.

Let me again make the point, as did the member for Durham West, that Metro Toronto has a very special right within this province. It has the right to seek a landfill site somewhere other than within its own boundaries. It's the only municipality allowed to pinpoint somebody else's backyard and say, "We'll have a landfill site in your backyard, thank you very much."

What we are doing by this legislation is, to use a phrase I'm sure the member for Markham is very fond of, levelling the playing field and saying to the regional municipalities within the GTA, "You don't have the right to dispose of your waste in someone else's backyard; you have the obligation and the responsibility to dispose of your waste within your own political, geographical boundaries and you have an obligation, in determining where those landfill sites will be"—and this is what the Interim Waste Authority is doing—"to use not political criteria, not resolutions from a municipal council, but environmental criteria." At the end of the day that's what matters.

The site search that is being undertaken by the Interim Waste Authority is the most extensive process of consultation and of development of environmental criteria we have seen in the past in this province, and I am confident it will lead to the identification of a series of sites which will then be narrowed down to a preferred site in each of the three areas and submitted to an Environmental Assessment Board.

The member for Markham commented on the rationale for the division of a site for Peel, a site for Durham and a site for York-Metro. I know that is an issue that has been raised, will be raised again and I have responded to before, but I think it's probably worth putting the reasons on the record.

Responsibility for disposal of waste and for management of waste throughout the province has traditionally been, and continues to be, a municipal responsibility. Within the greater Toronto area, because of the failure of the regional municipalities to be able to identify sites and come to grips with the process, the previous government put in place a process of coordination which we have come to know as SWISC, and allowed that committee to search for sites somewhere outside the GTA, which is why Marmora, Plympton and Kirkland Lake came to the fore.

When it was obvious that the process was going to lead to non-environmental criteria being used in the selection of sites and that the interim sites to be selected by that process had been exempted from the Environmental Assessment Act and therefore from a full examination of alternatives, our government stepped in and said: "This is an unsatisfactory way to do business. Therefore we will create a crown corporation and give that crown corporation the authority to proceed to find landfill sites and to

submit those landfill sites to an environmental assessment." It is certainly our hope and indeed our expectation that when all the grief and all the pain has been taken by the Interim Waste Authority in identifying preferred sites and submitting the environmental assessment, the regional municipalities may then be, if not willing, in fact anxious to have those sites revert to them in order that they may operate them and they may generate the revenue from those sites and apply that revenue to their waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs.

In order not to preclude that possibility, in our delineation of the boundaries within which the site search would be undertaken we used the regional boundaries. We said that the Interim Waste Authority will search for a site within Peel primarily to service those who generate waste within Peel, will search for a site within Durham primarily to service those who generate waste within Durham and will search for a site within York and/or Metro in order to service the people who generate waste within York-Metro.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** Why York and Metro?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I know that question, "Why York and Metro," has been raised and will be raised again. The member for Markham is very expansive on the subject. But I would remind the House that many years ago Metro and York entered into a legal agreement. That legal agreement was that they would jointly identify a site and operate it. Metro would operate it and look after the waste in York. That agreement runs until the year 2003; that agreement exists. That agreement joined the regional municipalities of Metro and York in a joint effort to dispose of their joint waste, and that is the agreement we have continued by this clause within Bill 143. That will allow Metro and York to continue that arrangement and to find within their boundaries a site for the disposal of their waste.

The logic behind this bill is very clear. The intent of this bill is to find sites to enable the regional municipalities to resume their traditional responsibilities for waste management. I am confident that will be the ultimate outcome, and I cannot support the amendment that's been put forward.

1600

**Mrs Marland:** It's really almost impossible to sit in this House this afternoon and hear what the Minister of the Environment is saying with respect to this amendment to Bill 143. First she said, "What we are doing is levelling the playing field." We're all so fed up with that expression anyway, and I try not to use it, but what this minister is doing is throwing out the whole game. I think it's almost unbelievable that she would stand in this House today and say that.

She says the municipalities identified in this amendment failed to identify their sites. I think the people in the region of Peel are going to be very interested to see that quote from the Minister of the Environment in Hansard, because the taxpayers in Peel have spent \$9 million; not \$9 million from the provincial treasury, but \$9 million on the backs of the taxpayers in Peel has been spent to identify the landfill site in Peel.



This minister and the member for St Catharines, the former Minister of the Environment for the Liberal government, have both stopped the process of the identification of that site in Peel. We lay the blame for the fact that there is no landfill site today in Peel to replace Britannia, which was to have closed one year ago—which we lose sight of: It's already had one year's expansion. But when the region of Peel was at the 11th hour of an environmental assessment hearing for its site and the former Minister of the Environment, the member for St Catharines, said, "No, you've got to go back and redo it all again," certainly that decision at that point was a very curious one for those of us in Peel, because we always felt it was probably more than a coincidence that the land was partly owned by Ronto Development Corp and more than a coincidence that Patti Starr's husband—

**Mr McClelland:** On a point of order, Mr Chairman: I take great exception to the inference being drawn by my friend the member for Mississauga South—and she is a friend. I challenge her to say that outside this House in terms of any inference of impropriety. She's implying impropriety in conduct on behalf of the former minister, who is not here, and does not even have the courtesy to do it in his presence.

The fact of the matter is that it's inappropriate and, quite frankly, unbecoming and inconsistent with the member for Mississauga South as I know her, and I would ask her to reconsider the implication she is making in terms of the impropriety of Mr Bradley's conduct. If she is so inclined, I would challenge her to say the same outside this place.

**Mrs Marland:** I would like to inform you, Mr Chair, that I have on a number of occasions in the presence of the former Minister of the Environment made exactly the same statement I just made, and I have no concern with making that statement. It is just rather interesting that the then Minister of the Environment issued a notice of order to the region of Peel not to proceed with its environmental assessment hearing on the site the region of Peel council had voted on, and that site was owned by Ronto Development and Ronto Development was partly owned by Patti Starr's husband. Those facts are indisputable. The conclusions that can be drawn from them are up to those people who wish to draw those conclusions.

We in the region of Peel are simply saying that we were well on the way to looking after our own garbage in Peel. We didn't need the former Liberal government's intervention; we certainly didn't need the current NDP socialist government's intervention. If we had been left alone in the region of Peel, we would not be talking about expansion of the Britannia landfill site; we would now be completed. Even if it had taken three years for an environmental assessment, we would have had it.

Instead of that, what do we have? Without an environmental assessment at all, we have the expansion of a site that was originally established under the Environmental Protection Act, an act that this Minister of the Environment, when she was over here in opposition, said was unacceptable. She always said the Environmental Protec-

tion Act was not sufficient protection in establishing a landfill site. Yet today with this bill she is willing not only to establish but to expand an existing site that was not originally heard through the environmental assessment, only through the Environmental Protection Act, which she has said all along was insufficient protection.

So when this minister says that Peel, in which she includes all these municipalities, failed to identify its sites, she's got to answer to 750,000 people in the region of Peel who spent \$9 million of their money, through their property taxes, to identify the landfill site—and all for nothing; that money is now out the window. In fact, the good news for Peel taxpayers is that they're now about to pay again for an evaluation to the expansion of the Britannia landfill site, an expansion which is totally in conflict with an existing, signed agreement.

When this minister was talking a few moments ago, the member from Etobicoke corrected her about the agreement that was signed for Metropolitan Toronto in terms of its waste management plans. The same thing in the region of Peel: We had an agreement that was signed between the city of Mississauga, the region of Peel, the province and the Ontario Municipal Board. That agreement established that the Britannia landfill site, which opened in 1978, would be closed in 12 years. Unless I'm mistaken, we are now in 1992. That landfill site already has had one 12-month expansion.

Now we get to the real crux of the problem, and that is that although this minister and this government have been asked repeatedly by the city and the region and the residents within that community of the Britannia landfill site to give a closing date, a final deadline that they could commit to for the expansion of the Britannia site, this minister and this ministry have failed these residents completely.

In fact, I have a letter over the signature of James H. Bursey, who is the president of the Federation of Mississauga Ratepayers' Associations; the letter is dated March 24, 1992. In reply to a letter from the Minister of the Environment, Mr Bursey says a number of things, and he's referring to our discussion of the Residential Strategy for Action: A Six-Point Action Plan.

He says, "I am deeply concerned about the contents of your letter." In particular, skipping down to another paragraph, he says under item 1: "Provincial government commitment to a planning schedule to identify, select and announce the location of the preferred long-term landfill site for solid waste disposal for the region of Peel on or before the end of March 1993."

"When we agreed to moving the decision date from December 1992 to March 1993, we were assured by you that, save for third-party legal impediments, you were willing and able to commit to a firm date for decision by the end of March 1993. However, your recent letter states, 'My commitment to this schedule is based on their (IWA) assurances.' This is not acceptable."

1610

Mr Bursey is saying to this minister that there is nothing this minister is willing to commit to.



It's very interesting to palm it off to the Interim Waste Authority. The reason I say it is very interesting is that the region of Peel hosted a meeting to brief all the politicians in the region about two weeks ago. At that meeting, the chairman of the Interim Waste Authority, Mr Erv McIntyre, addressed those politicians present, including MPPs and Peel regional councillors. During that meeting I said to Mr McIntyre that I was very disappointed that the Interim Waste Authority has the responsibility to establish all of these landfill sites in the GTA and here we are one year later and, really, how much further ahead are they? Sure, they've had a few public meetings and a few drop-in information centres, but really, in a whole year, how much further down the road are they in preparation to deal with the establishment of landfill sites in the greater Toronto area or anywhere, as the member for Markham has said?

Do you know what his answer was? I couldn't believe this, and I think the minister should know what Mr McIntyre's answer was. I hope the parliamentary assistant, who is in the House presently, though the minister is not, will convey this to her. Mr McIntyre's reply was, "But of course we're five months behind with our work." I asked, "And why is that?" The answer was, "Because you have delayed the passage of Bill 143." He is saying the work of the Interim Waste Authority is five months behind because we have delayed the passage of Bill 143. It is ironic. Already, at only one year old, the Interim Waste Authority is blaming on the opposition the fact that it's five months behind.

I think this is incredible. As far as I know, there are 74 government members in this House and there are 37 Liberals and 20 Progressive Conservatives. Isn't it ironic that you're now saying, "You've delayed the passage of this bill, so now you've delayed the work of the Interim Waste Authority"?

Will somebody please tell me how it's possible—I would like the parliamentary assistant to answer this question. Could you tell us how it is that the delay of the passage of this bill has delayed the work of the Interim Waste Authority? It's got \$17 million. It has all the authority it needs to proceed with the mandate it was given when it was established.

All we in the opposition said was that we wanted the public to know what Bill 143 is about. We want the public, which is paying for this boondoggle, to get an opportunity to come in here and state its concerns when you take away everybody's rights. When you've got a piece of legislation that supersedes every existing statute in this province in terms of waste management and land use and zoning, when you have something so monumental, of course we wanted the public to have an opportunity to come in and tell us what they thought, right from individual ratepayers, ratepayer groups and organizations all the way up to municipalities and umbrella organizations for municipalities like AMO, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

That public hearing process had to take place. The fact that you didn't want to schedule it and didn't want it, and we had to drag you kicking, yelling and screaming, before Christmas, before you agreed to go to public hearings, rests on your shoulders, not ours. We happen to believe in

the public process which, I may say, at this point does not exist on Bill 143. Bill 143 is so powerful that this minister can do whatever she likes through her directors and managers and never ask the public another question.

I must also say that when this parliamentary assistant is answering my question about how the delay of the passage of this bill could be blamed on the Interim Waste Authority being five months behind with its scheduled work, I hope the parliamentary assistant will be in a position to address the concerns the Federation of Mississauga Ratepayers' Associations still have with this minister. They were a very fair and reasonable group. There was a public meeting in Mississauga to which the minister came and where she was presented with a six-point mandate. It is my understanding that some of those points have been addressed, but the most critical ones dealing with when the Britannia landfill site will be closed and a decision made on a new site are still outstanding.

When we look at this excellent amendment placed by our Environment critic, the member for Markham, you really have to wonder why this minister is talking about establishing landfill sites for at least 20 years. I have said this a number of times in the committee: Nobody wants a landfill site, period, but certainly nobody wants it on the condition that it's going to be there for at least 20 years.

If you could say to people, as we did, in the city of Mississauga for the region of Peel's garbage, "This landfill site is going to operate for 12 years"—people came together and signed that agreement which is now being violated by this socialist government. People came together and said, "All right, we'll accept it for 12 years," and they knew that after 12 years there would be an end to the trucks, dust, noise and pollution.

Having said that, I must also recognize that the Britannia landfill site is one of the best-managed landfill sites in Canada, but not without a tremendous cost to the people who pay for the operation of that site: the taxpayers in the region of Peel.

Here we have an amendment that talks about the new waste disposal sites being established for a period of at least 20 years. It just doesn't make sense. Nobody is going to accept it. You might as well move. Who is going to buy property when they know that landfill site is open for at least 20 years? Does that mean 30, 40, 50 years? Does it mean for ever?

What you are doing is freezing any land in the area of wherever these landfill sites will be established. It is the most impractical approach anyone could have dreamed up to establishing landfill sites in the future. But if you were willing to make an agreement and stay with it and say to people, "It is going to be open for 8, 10 or 12 years," people would accept it because they would know there would be an end as long as there wasn't a socialist government that came along and took their rights away and violated a signed, binding, written agreement between the residents, the property owners, the municipalities and the province.

Fortunately, this Bob Rae socialist government is a one-term government and this won't ever happen again. It will never happen again in the province of Ontario that



people will be betrayed. The people who have been betrayed are the people in the greater Toronto area, for whom there were solutions to their waste management. This particular government has total disregard for those agreements.

1620

I have asked this government repeatedly if it would even lift the freeze on the property around the Britannia landfill site, which it now wants to expand—again, I say, without an environmental assessment—if it would lift the freeze and allow those jobs to be created by building those homes. We're talking about something like 5,000 homes. It doesn't take much imagination to calculate how many jobs 5,000 new homes being constructed would generate, not only the jobs of the people working on the site building those homes, but the jobs of the suppliers who manufacture what goes into building and constructing a home.

It's entirely possible, if this government were willing, to lift the freeze on those lands and let those homes be built, a high percentage of which, I should explain, are affordable homes, and have that construction go ahead, have the jobs created and have something written on title that identified there could not be any appeal or objection by the new home owner, when he moved in, to the ongoing activity of the Britannia landfill site. It could be registered on their deed that they accepted the fact the landfill site was operating and was adjacent to the area where their property was. As long as these documents were legally binding, what is the problem? But we have asked and asked and asked this government, and that problem hasn't been resolved.

There is one other problem I want to talk about on this subject of waste disposal, parliamentary assistant, and I'd like you to address this for me in your answer because it is a very real concern for waste disposal in the greater Toronto area. Yesterday I read in the *Toronto Star*—actually, I'm reading it today, but it was in yesterday's *Toronto Star*—that St Lawrence Cement is proceeding to request its environmental assessment hearing. Having said that, I want to show you their environmental assessment document, which I've just received today.

This is an environmental assessment document that I show to the parliamentary assistant, which is a proposal for burning refuse-derived fuel. I would like you to confirm again, as was confirmed in the committee hearings, that the incineration ban by your ministry applies to refuse-derived fuel, as identified in this proposal from St Lawrence Cement, refuse-derived fuel that is made from municipal solid waste. My concern is that if St Lawrence Cement proceeds with this final environmental assessment document to an environmental assessment hearing, there is a further cost for the taxpayers of this province that frankly should not be permitted.

Are you willing to, once and for all, assure the taxpayers they will not be paying the cost for an environmental assessment hearing for a process that your ban on incineration covers? Can you assure us the regulations will address the extent to which your ban on incineration covers? Does it cover refuse-derived fuel made from municipal solid waste and to be burned in existing incinerators, not new

incinerators to be built—that part we understand—but to be burned in existing incinerators such as those that are used for the manufacture of cement?

Those are just a number of the concerns I wanted to place on the record today at the outset, and I look forward to the parliamentary assistant's response to my questions.

**Mr O'Connor:** The member for Mississauga South raised an awful lot of important points. I hope I don't miss any of them. You did speak at some length, but I tried to keep track of what you've been speaking about this afternoon in this important debate.

You mentioned the residents' group and Jim Bursey. The minister and her staff have met with them and actually plan to meet with them again to try to resolve some of those issues that were brought to the committee and have been raised by the member. The minister has said she is hoping she can reach an agreement soon on some of the concerns they've talked about.

The member opposite also talked about the money spent by SWISC and SWEAP and all the other processes that took place in trying to come up with some solutions. I noted going through a document from the Interim Waste Authority that in the original draft approach and criteria document that was sent out to all—this one here is for the Durham region, but there was one for Peel, York and Metro—it refers to a lot of the work that had gone on under the SWEAP and SWISC processes, so that hasn't gone for naught. Information has been used, and used wisely. That is something I'm sure she's quite concerned about, the public purse, as we all are, especially in a time of recession. That money was spent and there were some concerns about the direction that process was going. It had to be looked at and it wasn't something the government of the day was comfortable with, and that's why the change in direction took place.

The member opposite talked about Peel region and the involvement of the public there. I know there were five workshops initially by the Interim Waste Authority in trying to deal with some of the problems there. For people who attended, there were 100 workshop booklets and information packages sent out. In Peel region there were 2,400 newsletters sent out. There were 450 copies of the DAC document circulated. Actually, on the 1-800 line itself, 500 people phoned and requested information and were sent information along those lines, so I think it's really important.

The member opposite also raised questions around the buffer zone and the area surrounding the existing Britannia Road site. I know that's one thing that's really important, for a number of different reasons. First of all, the member opposite would be well aware of the minister's report that was circulated. Before any of the buffer zone property could be released, the compliance with the minister's orders has to be dealt with. When we had the mayor of Mississauga come before the committee, at that point in time they weren't in compliance with the minister's orders. They were defiant and they had some concerns, and they came to the committee and shared some of those concerns. At this point in time they are in compliance and trying to follow them.



I'd like to point out some of the areas and some of the studies that need to be looked at before we can just release some of that land that is being referred to. We hear a lot of concern about the environment. I know the Britannia Road site is going to be expanded after the studies have taken place, and it's really an area of a lot of concern to residents around there. The environment is an area that ranks as a concern with all members of this House.

1630

They're taking a look at the leachate control and collection: the quality, the quantity, the collection, their disposal of the leachate, the installation and operation and maintenance and monitoring of pre-treatment systems, and contingency plans for backup controls. A lot of that has to be taken care of for the leachate collection.

For the gas generation control, again there has to be an awful lot of work done to make sure that the quantity that is expected to be generated will be looked at for its potential mitigation, including potential lateral through the shallow zones of the till and what not. It's something that has to be looked at, and it's part of the minister's reports.

Storm water management again is an area that will be looked at: the final cover, the buffer zone assessment, which is exactly what the member opposite was referring to.

The operation of the site itself has to be one that probably concerns local residents more than anything. In any landfill site, especially one of enormous size, we have to make sure the landfill is operated in sequence and the cells are closed in a proper way so that dust and traffic, litter and odour control are all met. There's the end use plan, and there's an awful lot more that goes into taking a look at running and the operations of a landfill site.

Peel is trying to comply with the minister's report right now, and the studies are starting. The member asked about the buffer zone. The minister did in speaking to the committee address the fact that the buffer zone has some importance to the people she represents, and we have to make sure that the integrity of the buffer zone is maintained. She has talked about a phased release of some of the buffer zone where it would be appropriate. That's something that does need to be dealt with.

One other point the member opposite raised was the incineration of municipal solid waste, and I think that's something that isn't going to be enshrined in the legislation. I guess we have an amendment coming up later on this afternoon around incineration by one of our colleagues here that will be looked at and probably debated again, but it's something that will be enshrined in the legislation.

**Mrs Marland:** Could you answer the question that was asked in committee, whether we can be assured that regulations will address the extent of the ban on incineration to cover refuse-derived fuel that's made from municipal solid waste that would be burned in existing incinerators—for example, the existing St Lawrence Cement incinerators it uses for manufacturing cement—and will you establish an environmental assessment hearing for them at a tremendous cost to the taxpayers if your regulations prohibit the proposal they bring to that hearing?

**Mr O'Connor:** I believe in my final conclusion answer towards some of your questions I did state that the legislation will enshrine that there will be no further approvals for the incineration of municipal solid waste. We do have further amendments that members here have raised this afternoon that deal with the some of the RDF, and we'll deal with that when we get there.

**Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North):** I'd like to speak to this matter. Certainly I've been listening very carefully to the words of the member for Mississauga South and the parliamentary assistant and earlier on the Minister of the Environment.

It's a strange thing when we talk about this particular issue, and in particular Britannia landfill site in the city of Mississauga, because for those who are located anywhere within that area in terms of his or her responsibilities of representation, and those who are reading from some sort of a report, like the Minister of the Environment, it seems that we're almost talking about two different places.

I think it is important for members of the Legislature, and certainly for the minister, to listen to those people who live in the area, who represent the area and who have been involved with the issue for many years and talk about the reality of what we have in the city of Mississauga as opposed to the theory that the Minister of the Environment wishes to latch on to whenever it seems convenient. I will give one example of that latching on to a theory.

The Minister of the Environment in an earlier response spoke about—I just paraphrase her words—the need to maintain and enforce an agreement. I think she was alluding to an agreement between the city of Toronto and the region of York. She went on at some length and spoke about how important a legal agreement is and how important it is for people to make certain they can rely on the provisions of an agreement between two particular municipalities. That is an example of the Minister of the Environment latching on to a particular principle when it suits her needs.

But I could ask her the question—and if she were here, I would in fact do so—why the same principle of safeguarding provisions within a legal agreement such as that between the city of Toronto and the region of York is so very important when the provisions of an agreement that had been entered into almost 12 years ago between the city of Mississauga and the regional municipality of Peel, which spoke about where a new landfill site was to be located, are not? That of course remains unanswered by the Minister of the Environment.

Over many years many politicians brought this particular legally binding agreement to the people in the areas they represented and said: "This is the agreement. We have signed this agreement. These are the provisions. You can rely on these provisions that when the Britannia landfill site reaches its capacity, a new landfill site will be located, not in the city of Mississauga but in the city of Brampton. We as local politicians have entered into that agreement. It is a binding agreement. It is a legal agreement. It is an agreement you can rely on." In that particular case the Minister of the Environment does not latch on to the principle of legally binding documents as well as she does for



those that exist between the city of Toronto and the region of York.

The first question I ask the Minister of the Environment, who is now here, is simply, what is the difference between a legal agreement between the city of Toronto and the region of York, which you believe must be complied with, and another agreement that was entered into between the city of Mississauga and the regional municipality of Peel, which you believe does not have to be complied with? That is my first question.

Before I get into my second question, I would like to step back, because there are a number of people, certainly within the city of Mississauga and the regional municipality of Peel, watching this debate very closely. I represent that area of Mississauga North where the Britannia landfill site is located; in fact, I live fairly close to the Britannia landfill site. I think it's important to realize that a great many of the ratepayers' associations within that particular area have taken what I believe to be a very reasonable, responsible and balanced approach to this issue.

We have to realize that everyone in the region of Peel knew that the Britannia landfill site was reaching its capacity. It will reach its capacity very soon, as I stand here now, probably within the next few months. So the question a few years ago was, what happens when the landfill site does reach its capacity?

1640

In essence what was going to happen is that there was already set down a hearing under the Environmental Protection Act to determine an interim landfill site in the city of Mississauga. By that I mean that basically when Britannia, the landfill site in Mississauga, reaches capacity then there would be another landfill of a short-term, interim nature in the city of Brampton to receive that landfill. On that basis hearings were set down. I don't know how many times members within the region of Peel have to say that hearings under the Environmental Protection Act were in fact set down and slated to begin in February of 1991. That's when the hearings were scheduled to be commenced.

The Minister of the Environment stopped those hearings with an order and so we in the area were left with the situation that Britannia was still going to reach capacity. But where were we going to put the garbage when it reached capacity? We could not look to that interim site because the Minister of the Environment stopped the hearing. It was obvious that in light of the dictates of the Minister of the Environment the only way the region of Peel could look after its own garbage would be through an emergency order by the minister to expand Britannia. It was clear as soon as the minister made that decision, I believe in November of 1990, that there was just no other recourse than that somewhere down the line she was going to have to expand Britannia.

If I check Hansard I can be certain the minister refused to admit at the time and in the months to come that the only way Peel could look after its own garbage, which it has a history of doing, was if the minister, by an order, expanded the Britannia landfill site. Guess what hap-

pened? That's exactly what she did. She expanded the Britannia landfill site.

I now move to my second question. I well remember the election of 1990, when there was the statement made by the now Premier and by the now Minister of the Environment, I believe, that there would not be any expansion of an existing landfill site without a full environmental hearing—simply stated, no expansion without a hearing. In other words, vote for the NDP and you can be as certain as our word is certain that there will not be any expansion without a full hearing. In Britannia we have an example of a site being expanded without consultation.

Now I move to my second question. The parliamentary assistant spoke about how much consultation has gone on within the city of Mississauga and the regional municipality of Peel. The parliamentary assistant conveniently spoke to consultation of a long-term nature. I would like to pose the question to both the minister and the parliamentary assistant: How much consultation has gone on with the people not only of the city of Mississauga but of the regional municipality of Peel, who have dealt specifically with the expansion of the Britannia landfill site?

We are now left with a situation where a hearing for an interim landfill site to be located in the city of Brampton has been stopped. Second, the Minister of the Environment has ordered the Britannia landfill site to be extended without any public consultation and public hearing, notwithstanding the specific promises made by her and the now Premier during the election.

We have a number of ratepayer groups in the area. We have the Credit Valley Residents Association, the Confederation of Resident and Ratepayers Associations, the RiverRun Ratepayers Association and the Sandalwood-Eastgate Community Ratepayers' Association. I know the minister is well aware of those groups and the good work they have done, because they came to the minister and said: "We see the writing on the wall. You are going to expand Britannia. We know the actions you took which stopped the hearing for an interim site were wrong. We know you are going to, by order, expand Britannia, so what we want is a guarantee."

That I do not believe to be unreasonable—a guarantee. I will not read all of their six points, but they want a guarantee that there will be a long-term site selected for the disposal of waste in the region of Peel, to be announced in March 1993. They want a planning schedule to be in place so that Britannia, as expanded, will close no later than December 31, 1995. They want assurances about the interim expansion of the Britannia site.

You have to remember it was a hard task for those associations to get the support of the residents, the people who live around the area, to say, "Listen, the minister is going to be mandating this expansion, but what we want to do is make certain that this expansion is the only expansion." That can be accomplished if the minister will release the holding zone of lands around the landfill site. Right now they have put a freeze on all development within 500 metres around the landfill site. The residents are saying, "Give us the assurance that this will be the only expansion."



You can do so by allowing development. The parliamentary assistant has spoken about a number of reports that are ongoing. I would remind the parliamentary assistant and the Minister of the Environment that there is ample information now available from a variety of sources as to the safety of the Britannia landfill site. The residents of the area are saying, "Show us that you are ready to limit Britannia to what it is now or will be after the order." You can do so by allowing development. The time for development is now. We are now in that building season. This is now the time to do it.

The minister and the parliamentary assistant are conveniently looking at words on a piece of paper and not looking at the facts as to what Britannia is and has been and will continue to be, and that is, as all persons know, a safe landfill site. So there is no reason to stop the development in the area around the landfill site.

The parliamentary assistant, and this leads me to my third question, speaks to the integrity of a buffer zone. My simple question is, what do you mean by "the integrity of a buffer zone"? We have people who are ready to build homes. I have, from a meeting held, information that the development of those lands would result in 6,000 homes. Land developers are anxious to begin work. The high rate of unemployment in the construction trades dictates that we must accomplish the release of the lands without further delays. Unemployment is now. This is the time, this is an opportunity, to start to build around the lands. Give to the ratepayer associations the assurances they want. Give to the ratepayer associations the assurances they deserve. You can do so by releasing those lands.

1650

I'd speak to Mr Bill Christmas, who is the second vice-president of the Mississauga Board of Trade, which represents more than 2,300 Mississauga-based companies that will benefit from development and a strengthened economy. Tony Dionison, the president of Local 183 Labourers' Union, represents more than 14,000 members who had an unemployment level of more than 50% at that time, and they need those jobs now for their members. David Keenan, the immediate past president of the Greater Toronto Homebuilders' Association, confirmed again that more than 6,000 homes are waiting to be built, with the greatest percentage in the affordable homes category. The land must be released. The reports, the data, are there; all that is required is action.

You said earlier, during an election, that this site would not be expanded without a hearing. The fact is that this site is going to be expanded and there will not be any hearing. The residents of the area see the writing on the wall and they say: "Let us see some action. Let us see some leadership. Release those lands. Provide a buffer. Provide a guarantee, an assurance, that Britannia will not be further expanded." In this regard there is now an amendment tabled by myself that specifically states there will not be any further expansion of the Britannia landfill site.

You on the government side have an opportunity today to say yes to the ratepayers' associations within the city of Mississauga. You have an opportunity to say yes to the municipal politicians who entered into legally binding

agreements many years ago that you are throwing in their face. You have an opportunity to correct some of the very serious wrong you have done to the people, to the families and to those many people who need jobs in the area. Today is the day for you to stand up and say, "We will accept that amendment." Today is the day for you to say, "We'll release those lands, and jobs and homes and communities will be built." Today is the day. It is up to you, Madam Minister, to meet the challenge of a problem that, with all due respect, you yourself and only yourself have created.

**Mr O'Connor:** The member opposite has raised a few concerns again, concerns that had been raised earlier, about the ratepayers in the area. This is the document you are referring to: the six points, I believe.

The minister has met with them on several occasions and I believe will be meeting with them again later on this week. It's important, when we can have some constructive debate with residents to try to get a little feedback, that we do that. The residents have been meeting, and any helpful changes from that are always important.

I want to refer the member opposite to the minister's order. The minister recognized, when there was going to be a need for a lift in Peel region, that the community had to be involved. Community involvement is very important. I want to read to you a little from the minister's report:

"Community involvement programs shall be developed by the municipality and implemented and shall include the following:

"(a) the establishment of a public liaison committee with representation invited from various sources, including but not limited to the regional municipality of Peel, the corporation of the city of Mississauga, the Ministry of the Environment, local ratepayers' associations and local residents.

"The committee will perform the following functions:

"represent the views of a broad range of stakeholders' interests to the municipality; provide ongoing comment to the studies and other activities being undertaken by the municipality for the provision of increased disposal capacity; to provide a forum for discussion of issues arising out of the provision of increased disposal capacity and to assist the municipality in communicating with the local residents and general public."

That's local issues related to provision of increased disposal capacity.

"(b) the development of a communications plan in support of the community involvement program, which shall include but is not limited to the following: description of communication objectives; target audiences as complete cross-sections of groups with interest in the provision of increased disposal capacity; the nature and type of the communications—eg, fact sheet, bulletins, displays—that will be used to achieve these objectives. The nature and type of communication activities will be open houses, information sessions"—in fact, there have been information sessions already—"and the establishment of a highly accessible public information centre to provide a focal point to deal with the public and media inquiries and public access to the technical documents and information for distribution."



Other methods: distribution, public notification and a schedule of the implementation.

Right within the minister's report, dealing with the very tough decisions that had to be made, which the minister made and should be applauded for—she dealt with the communities in her minister's report, so it wasn't something that had to be done as an afterthought; it was something that was very important.

The other question the member opposite raised was the buffer zones. I had mentioned a little bit about the buffer zones, but I guess we have to recognize the necessity for buffer zones, what the reason for the buffer zone is. When you have a landfill site, you need to have a buffer zone around it, and what for but to control some of the litter, the odour. When you have a major landfill site, there's going to be some impact on the local community, so the buffer zone is to try to limit that. That's why, when you take a look at dealing with the buffer zone and phased release of that, that has to go in conjunction with the whole operation of the landfill site. That's why it's so important, and you have to include the local residents in the whole process.

I'm sure the member opposite, when he was speaking about the buffer zone, was concerned for his local residents and probably never realized the impact of living close to one: the blowing litter, the dust, the odour and the noise, of course. Anyway, I just wanted to clear up those points.

**Mr Stockwell:** The answers are almost hilarious. It's almost hilarious that government members could stand in their places today and suggest to a neighbourhood, who they promised before the last election would not be an expansion to a landfill site—the Premier of this province promised, gave that undertaking—and suggest after breaking that promise to the residents that they will offer them a “focal point” in their community where they'll send out faxes and newsletters, and at the local IGA they'll put up some bulletins on how the expansion of Keele Valley, which they promised they wouldn't do, is going. This is some kind of process to get them off the hook for not fulfilling their campaign promises.

It's interesting to have this debate here today. Obviously, we're in the 11th hour. This piece of legislation is going to be rammed through by this government—

**Mr Len Wood (Cochrane North):** Democratically.

**Mr Stockwell:** Democratic, right. You want to know something that's not very democratic about this? The Premier, as part of this legislation, gave two very sincere undertakings to the people in Keele Valley and the people at Peel. Those undertakings, which I'm sure you know, but I'll repeat for your own information, were that they would not be expanded without a full environmental assessment hearing.

The question I have is simply, why did you say that when you had no intention of carrying it out? That's a very clear question, a very straightforward question. It has nothing to do with posters at the IGA or faxes or focal points. The question is, why did you say it when you knew you couldn't deliver?

The minister has said on a couple of occasions, at least today I've heard her on one occasion, that the municipali-

ties did not in fact carry out their jobs in searching for an interim or a long-term landfill site. I take great exception to that. Many, many millions of dollars were spent, specifically in the GTA, by a committee of Metro chairmen to find exactly that, an interim landfill site.

1700

To see the member for Durham West stand up here today and suggest that his community would find it acceptable for them to put a landfill site in the Pickering area, which is the exact issue he got elected on, is unbelievable. This whole debate surrounding this piece of legislation is difficult to debate on the changes and amendments etc. This debate hinges on integrity; this debate hinges on election promises; this debate hinges on campaigning and political decisions. That's what this debate hinges on. It hinges not on the environmental process this minister suggested she stood for when in opposition; it hinges on whether or not this minister and this Premier are people of their word. Are you or are you not a person of your word?

When you give an undertaking to a community that you will not expand dump sites—and that is what they are, dumps; let's get that straight. You can call them landfill sites and all the other terms you want; they're dumps. When you give your undertaking during an election that you will not expand a dump in a residential neighbourhood, are you a person of your word? The clear answer in this legislation is that no, they are not; they are not people of their word.

We have members in this House standing and asking the minister as forthrightly as possible with respect to buffer zones surrounding those expanded sites, which they promised they wouldn't expand, that they be released. Why is a member of this House asking the minister to release these buffer zones? The simple answer is they don't trust them. Why don't they trust you, Madam Minister? Why don't they trust your Premier? Because you told them you wouldn't expand the sites without a full environmental assessment hearing and you did.

If you want to couch the phraseology in any form you like, if you want to try to blame municipal governments, be my guest. It seems to be a rule rather than the exception for your government. If you want to try to blame the opposition for holding up this piece of legislation, be my guest. If you want to have your parliamentary assistant stand up, when asked about releasing the buffer zone, and mumble stuff such as bulletin board messages at the IGA and fax machines and focal points, be my guest. But the bottom line to this piece of legislation, the bottom line to this issue is that you gave an undertaking and you broke your promise.

The people in the municipalities spent a number of years, including millions and millions of taxpayers' dollars, searching for an interim landfill site. They spent millions and millions of dollars searching for a long-term landfill site. Madam Minister, as late as April 3, 1991, you still didn't have a policy on this issue. In this House in Hansard it was noted that you encouraged Metro council to go for the Kirkland Lake deal and use its reserve funds, now sitting at more than \$200 million. To suggest that you had a long-term, established policy is not being forthright with the public or this House, because as of a year ago you were

still encouraging Metropolitan Toronto council to seek approval for the Kirkland Lake site.

Many millions of dollars have been spent, and this debate can go on and on and on, but the 11th-hour question that stands, that I would like an answer for, that I've never got an answer for, that the people in Peel want an answer for, that the people in York, Metro, Durham and the GTA want an answer for is, why, Madam Minister, did your government tell them you wouldn't be expanding sites and then do it?

**Mr Cousens:** A number of things have been said on this amendment and I have very little confidence it's going to be carried. I just have to thank the member for Etobicoke West and the member for Mississauga South for the comments they made and the deep feelings we have at what has happened here in this House.

It really is one of those things where it's no wonder we have such a bad name as politicians. We can say one thing before we're elected and then another thing afterwards. I guess that's why we have a new term now known as "Martelling." We don't use the word "lying," but this is a true Martel joke as far as what's happened is concerned, because the Premier said one thing before he was elected as it had to do with Keele Valley landfill site and what we're dealing with now is very much the opposite.

What I really think NDP stands for now is, "No Dream Possible." People are inclined to believe the politician who tells the biggest lies, and that's really what's happened in this case, because many people believed what the New Democrats stood for.

I have to say that I so strongly object to the member for Durham West and his comments. It is wrong for any other member of this House to impute motive to other members, and for him to say that there is anyone in this House on this side, and certainly within our caucus, who would proceed with any kind of placing of Metro's garbage in a place such as Marmora where there's strong opposition to it is wrong, categorically wrong.

What I'm calling for through other options is that there be an environmental assessment. That environmental assessment would give a community a full opportunity to participate and consider what is going to happen to it, the very same thing that should have happened on Keele Valley and will not happen. For the minister to say that there is full conversation, and fuller consultation with this bill than ever before, is wrong and certainly does not hold with the kind of tradition of integrity and honesty you call for on matters such as this.

This bill is heinous. It's sickening. It takes away rights of people all over the place. It takes away the rights of regions to be involved in their own planning. It takes away the rights of property owners to protect their rights. It takes away the rights of Metropolitan Toronto to do what it had planned to do. There are ways in which this could be handled. That could have been very easily done through strong changes to the Environmental Assessment Act. That has not happened.

Mr Chairman, if the House will accept this as a move on my part, I withdraw the motion and I withdraw my other amendments, because to me the kind of reaction

we've had to this is a farce. I am prepared to remove all my amendments at this point because it is just—

**Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent):** Oh, you weren't very serious, Don.

**Mr Cousens:** I'll tell you, it's just not happening. What you people have done and what you're about to do to the people of the province—I will vote against everything you've done in this bill. To me, to come along and even try to amend it and to change it as the best way—I oppose all that you've had to say on this bill and all that it stands for, and what the member for Durham West stands for as well. I think what you're standing for in your riding—I think the member for Etobicoke West said it earlier. How you can come along and stand up and say, "Oh well, we're going to have a dump in my riding," and be proud about it when you could have saved Durham from having a dump on their site is just so sick. I hope the people in Durham remember you when it comes to the next election.

1710

**The Second Deputy Chair (Mr Noble Villeneuve):** Did I hear correctly that the honourable member for Markham is withdrawing all his amendments that I have before me?

**Mr Cousens:** Yes, Mr Chairman.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Is there further debate on section 13? The honourable member for Etobicoke West.

**Mr Stockwell:** Mr Chairman, I'm simply waiting for an answer.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** The amendments by the honourable member for Markham on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus have been withdrawn. It therefore follows that there would not be replies.

Shall section 13 stand as presented by the government?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote deferred.

Section 14:

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Shall section 14 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote deferred.

Section 15:

**The Second Deputy Chair:** I gather we have an amendment to section 15 by the member for Mississauga North—I mean Brampton North.

**Mr McClelland:** I should acknowledge the willingness of the member for Mississauga North to rise to any occasion.

I move that section 15 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted:

"The Environmental Assessment Act applies with respect to a landfill waste disposal site referred to in section 13."

**The Second Deputy Chair:** We are asking the honourable member for Brampton North to move his amendment to 15(3).



**Mr McClelland:** I tabled an amendment in the first instance to strike out section 15, and I just read into the record the amendment. I do have a subsequent amendment to subsection 15(3).

**The Second Deputy Chair:** The amendment you have just presented actually eliminates or strikes out 15 completely, and you are also amending it. I believe we must deal with amendments first.

**Mr McClelland:** We'll move forward to the amendment I have for subsection 15(3) and then come back to section 15, I presume, under your direction, Mr Chairman.

**The Second Deputy Chair:** Mr McClelland moves that subsection 15(3) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted:

"(3) An environmental assessment which complies with this section shall be deemed to comply with subsection 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment Act in respect of the matters referred to in this section if a notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the landfill waste disposal site is located stating that the environmental assessment has been completed but that the assessment does not comply with subsection 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment Act."

I hope the member understands that you have to amend section 15 prior to moving to have it struck out.

**Mr McClelland:** Mr Chairman, this has been debated, and I think the member for Etobicoke West just hit the nail on the head in terms of comments.

This section goes to the heart of the bill. Section 15 as it now stands says among other things, "An environmental assessment for a landfill waste disposal site referred to in section 13 is not required to contain" and then begins to set out at some length the items that are not to be considered.

Quite frankly, that is contrary to the general spirit of the Environmental Assessment Act, the very underpinnings of the Environmental Assessment Act, such that any ideas and alternatives are brought forward and given scrutiny. They are brought before an impartial board, a board that is constituted to deal with the issues at hand. What section 15 does is prescribe or limit the environmental assessment in a way that I believe cuts to the very heart of the Environmental Assessment Act.

As has been stated by the member for Markham, the issue here is whether or not the Environmental Assessment Act needs reform. We think it does. We understand that's coming. But the way to do it is to do it directly, not by some backhanded method to try to begin to eliminate some of the rights people believe they have.

I think the language is self-explanatory as it sits in the bill. The language of the bill as it now stands says, "We're going to give you an environmental assessment, but we're not"; it says, "We'll do what the act says, but we're not going to do it completely." So it would be our intent to move an amendment that would recognize the fact that this is just playing word games. The bill as it is now written—particularly section 15, entitled "Environmental Assessment," which as I said goes to the heart of the bill—in fact overrides the environmental assessment, as has been

pointed out in many instances. We want to make that point abundantly clear. The motion is to that effect.

**Mr Cousens:** It's not a bad motion. It would be good if this motion were considered as to how it affects all landfill sites and all planning that goes on around this province so we have one law that meets the needs of all; so if people are faced with a problem in Kirkland Lake at the Adams mine site, there's an environmental assessment process; if they have a problem with a site that has been selected in the expansion of Keele Valley, for instance, there's an environmental assessment process.

If the environmental assessment process takes too long, as it does now, and if it's fraught with problems, with frivolous objections that are brought forward, change the environmental assessment process. This government won't do that. But if you changed that process itself, you could close the time gap that takes place instead of extending it over long periods.

Use some of the judicial systems that are used by the Supreme Court of Canada so that if someone has a point to make before the Environmental Assessment Board, they would have to bring forward their point of view; they would have a chance to present it; they would be given limited time in which to do it. If the views they were representing were wasting the court's time, they would be thrown out, and that would end it. We could process the concerns that people have far more quickly, instead of people using environmental assessment as a way of keeping the thing dragging along and stopping development of all kinds.

We need environmental assessment. It is taken away in this bill. It has taken away the rights that are inherent to the people of the province through the Municipal Act, the Regional Municipality of York Act, and Peel and Durham acts, the conservation acts. All these acts are set aside and fair play disappears. The amendment's a good one. I support the amendment. I know what's going to happen to it, but at least we're trying.

**Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock):** I'd like to take this opportunity to reply in short to the remarks that have been made both by the member for Markham and the member for Brampton North.

I believe the audience that may be watching this should realize that there is a process that was established under the previous Liberal government that has allowed a shortening to take place in various aspects of the Environmental Assessment Act. It is something that is impacting on my community and in fact is impacting on my neighbourhood, so I know very well that this shortened environmental assessment process is taking place within the planning process within municipalities. In fact, it was brought forward by the previous Liberal government, so I really would be very cynical about the kinds of comments that the member for Brampton North and the member for Markham are presently making.

1720

**Mr McClelland:** Just a brief comment on that, and I recognize that the member for St Catharines-Brock is sort of grasping at straws: The fact of the matter is that what

the government is currently trying to do in one minute basically is wipe out the rights of the Environmental Assessment Act. She's talking about a process she clearly doesn't understand, basically a process that could take and probably will take five years. What we're doing here is that the government is saying, "Sorry, we're not giving you any rights at all," and I hardly think that is a valid or realistic comparison.

Be that as it may, I think the member for Markham was right. The government has made it abundantly clear it's not at all concerned about adhering to the promises it made or respecting the rights of the people of this province and it's going to go ahead and do what it will do regardless of the impact it has on people around this province.

**Mr Stockwell:** To the member for St Catharines-Brock, if that argument you just made is anywhere in your briefing books, rip it out, throw it away and burn it.

**Mr Wiseman:** Recycle it. That's the mentality you've got over there.

**Mr Stockwell:** Recycle it, that's a good idea, just like what you're going to do with the Agenda for People. Take that piece of paper and recycle it. To take even this kind of argument to that absurd level, I respectfully submit to the member for St Catharines-Brock, by suggesting that a shortened EA of some five years is anywhere near equivalent to the expansion of the two sites your minister has approved that took exactly one minute, or the length of time it takes to sign her name, borders on the hilarious if it weren't so dangerous. Please, take my advice: Get that paper, rip it up and throw it in the recycling bin, because that is where that argument belongs.

**Mr Wiseman:** We're dealing with section 15 of the proposed legislation, and what I'd like to do is just take a couple of moments so the viewing public can have a very clear idea of what we're talking about here. Subsection 15(2) talks about not using the alternative of incineration or transportation of waste within the environmental assessment.

We've just heard very clearly from the critic for the third party that he favours the idea of incineration, and prior to that we heard from the member for Mississauga South that she does not support incineration in cement kilns. If this section is not passed, if in fact the bill is not passed, what you are then doing is reopening the whole process to do exactly what the member for Mississauga South does not want, and that is accepting the alternative of incineration.

Why is it that we eliminate incineration from the view? I think there are two good reasons for that. The first is that incineration, we have heard, creates dioxins in the whole process of incineration, and I think that needs to be carefully considered. The second thing we need to understand about incineration is that it's going to burn a lot of the material that should be recycled and could be recycled, and therefore it becomes self-fulfilling in the sense that in order for the incinerator to be profitable or to create the amount of BTUs that are necessary for energy from waste, you have to burn the very materials that are recyclable. Therefore that is also unacceptable.

I think it was summed up rather well by Dr Connett from the United States, who said that even if you could make the whole process clean, if you could eliminate every possibility of any waste being dispersed in the atmosphere, if you could get it 100% clean, then you would have to ask yourself, why would you burn it, because there's a lot of material and a lot of natural resources that would then be lost that could be reused?

In a competitive society, what does this mean? I have businesses in my riding that have given me tours of their plants that are talking about capturing from the waste stream out of their stamping plants minute amounts less than an eighth of an inch. The reason they do that is because they think they can get one more product out of that waste, and that makes them that much more productive. That means their cost is that much less for all the other products, all the other items they are creating. Therefore, they are trying and seeking to recycle.

I think it is important for us to understand that incineration is not a viable option for municipal solid waste and even for industrial waste. For example, there is a new company starting to make secondhand use of materials from builders, from kitchens and a whole host of useful material: insulation, wallboard, Gyproc. All these things can be reused in the building process. To burn it up is to eliminate it and eliminate the possibility of its reuse. It takes a lot of value added, a lot of labour, to make these products and to simply just burn them up is a waste of that labour and it makes us even more uncompetitive than we are now.

**Mr Stockwell:** Are you going to hold that position tomorrow?

**Mr Wiseman:** That position is a position I presented to you when you sat behind your paper at council and ignored what we had to say for five years. How you have changed your position since you got here.

Now, long-distance transportation is also unacceptable because of what I said earlier. It costs a huge amount of money per tonne to ship. The chairman of my region suggested that all of Durham region's garbage could go to Kirkland Lake. I calculated that this would add somewhere between \$60 and \$80 in tax increases per household to the residents of Durham region. It also puts it in the north and creates a problem for what is called perpetual care. How do you take care of a landfill site for ever? By pumping waste and circulating it for ever. It also misses the opportunity for reusing all those products in the future.

I would say that all the communities of Ontario outside the GTA should have a really long, hard discussion with their MPPs who support long-distance transportation and incineration, because basically what they are saying is that we will give Metro the opportunity to decide a landfill site or an incinerator for Metro's waste in those communities.

**Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey):** Grey?

**Mr Wiseman:** Grey, Bruce.

**Mr Murdoch:** That's all right. We'll take one.

**Mr Wiseman:** I think your residents would probably find that a little bit more objectionable. What I am saying is that my residents do not want to open up their community



to any more of Metro's garbage as they have for the last 20 years, getting Metro's garbage at Brock West and Beare Road.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I wanted to respond briefly to the amendment put forward by the member for Brampton North because I think, as he said, this clause is at the heart of the legislation and at the heart of our desire that the long-term sites be subjected to an environmental assessment.

The implications of this section are to craft the limits to that environmental assessment and to avoid the necessity of a long-drawn-out, long involvement by citizens, by municipalities, by opponents and by proponents in an environmental assessment looking into options which we have already understood, learned, deemed to be environmentally unacceptable.

We've had many times, around this issue, the debate about incineration. I'm not going to reiterate the arguments, but certainly nobody on this side of the House can accept that incinerating waste is an acceptable way of dealing with it in the 1990s. We know that it is merely putting the waste from one medium, the land, into another, the air, and ultimately into the water and is not consistent with an ecosystem approach. We know that it does not obviate the need to find landfills. You are in fact looking for landfills for toxic ash as opposed to landfills for municipal solid waste. We know the costs of incineration—the costs to construct the incinerator, the costs to operate it, let alone the costs of the effects of the emissions—are far greater than landfill.

1730

We had just last week a report from the International Joint Commission, a leaked report from the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States, pointing out that if we were to stop the spread of dioxins into our foods and our waterways the banning of incineration was a necessity.

I am very proud that in this province this government has undertaken that step. To put that back on the table for an environmental assessment is a step backwards, not a step forward, and not a step in favour of the environment.

Similarly with long-range transportation, long-range transportation of waste to someone else's community is an old-fashioned approach to waste management. It is not an approach that is acceptable. It is not an approach that is consistent with putting in place a comprehensive waste management system, a system that will put reduction, reuse and recycling first, that will mean what we now consider waste and have disposed of out of sight, out of mind for years becomes a resource, a resource that can be reused and a resource, as my colleague the member for Durham West has said, in which many new opportunities exist for reuse and for the creation of products from materials that would up to now have been disposed of.

We have put in place the beginnings of a system to make that possible, and to step back and say, "Send it somewhere else; send it up into the air by incineration," is a retrogressive step that is not consistent with our commitment to an environmental solution to waste, a solution that will put in place comprehensive recycling that will mean that what we are disposing of in landfill is only those

materials for which no other use can ultimately be found and that we find those landfill sites as close as possible to the source of the generation of that waste.

Those are the principles that have driven the policies this government has put in place, those are the principles behind Bill 143 and those are the principles that will take us from a consumer to a conserver society, one that we can be proud of in the next century, one that we can leave to our children and to our grandchildren with some pride and with some confidence. That's what Bill 143 does and that's why this amendment is not one I can support.

**Mrs Marland:** I would like, now that the minister is back—Madam Minister?

**Mr Murdoch:** Would you listen, Ruth?

**Mrs Marland:** Yes. It's hard to ask the minister a question if the member from Durham is speaking to her. However, since we are now down to our last joyful 27 minutes of Bill 143—

**Interjection:** Twelve minutes.

**Mrs Marland:** —actually 12 minutes, I would like to ask the minister—excuse me, Madam Minister, could I ask you this question directly, through the Chair?

It's very important for us to establish the answers to the questions which I raised earlier, in your absence, which the parliamentary assistant deferred to a later period in this debate. But since the later period in the debate isn't going to take place now, I would like to ask you the question about whether your incineration ban includes refuse-derived fuel made from municipal solid waste—as an example the proposal by St Lawrence Cement to burn RDF in its cement kiln. We would like to know whether we can be assured that regulations would address the extent of the ban on incineration, and would it include RDF burned in an existing cement kiln like St Lawrence Cement? That's the first question.

The second question is, are you going to subject the taxpayers of this province to bear the tremendous financial costs of an environmental assessment hearing a proponent such as St Lawrence Cement is requesting, in spite of the fact that there is an understanding that your incineration ban includes RDF from municipal solid waste in a cement kiln like St Lawrence Cement?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** Let me say to the member and her constituents that I really appreciate her very strong opposition to the burning of municipal solid waste in the cement kilns of St Lawrence Cement. I know her long-standing concern and opposition to that proposal, and I am glad to be able to say to her again, as I have said to her in writing when she has asked me in the past, that as far as this government is concerned, the incineration of municipal solid waste is not acceptable. The regulation that will put that in legal form for the rest of the province will include proposals such as that from St Lawrence Cement for the combustion of municipal solid waste in its existing cement kiln. I have made that clear to the member and I have made that clear to St Lawrence Cement.

With respect to the second question she asks, as to whether or not people will be subjected to an environmental assessment process as a result of the announced intention

of St Lawrence Cement to apply and to subject its proposal for the incineration of municipal solid waste in its existing cement kiln to the Environmental Assessment Act, that's a question I am not in a position to answer definitively at this point. I have not yet had an opportunity to review their application and the precise wording of it, and I have asked the legal counsel within the ministry to give me their advice on that. As soon as we have come to a conclusion with respect to that particular application, I will be happy to share that information with the member.

**Mrs Marland:** Does that apply to RDF?

**Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole):** She is saying they haven't decided; they don't know.

**Mrs Marland:** Does it apply to RDF that's made from municipal solid waste?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** Yes.

**Mr Stockwell:** I have just a quick question. You've made a long speech about transporting garbage outside your jurisdictional boundaries, Madam Minister. You know as well as I know that some half million tonnes of waste, conservatively estimated, are heading south of the border to the United States. What exactly do you see in this piece of legislation or in future legislation to ensure that that, in fact, doesn't take place and you stick by the policy and guidelines you've set down?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** What I see with respect to future legislation are amendments to the Municipal Act that would give regional municipalities the power to direct the flow of waste within their boundaries, the issue of flow control that I am sure the member, as a former member of Metro council, is very familiar with.

We released some weeks ago a discussion paper which had been developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in response to the requests from many municipalities that they be given precisely that power. We have proposed in this initiatives paper a number of other questions with respect to municipal authority over municipal solid waste, and the issue of flow control is addressed in that discussion paper. I would hope that when we have completed our consultation around the province on that initiatives paper we will be prepared to come to the House with amendments to the legislation that would respond to the concerns and to the discussion during that consultation.

1740

**Mr Stockwell:** I'm sure you were here for the last question I asked with respect to giving your undertakings last election, when you and the Premier gave your word to the people in Peel surrounding the Keele Valley landfill site, and the grave concerns out there in those communities and others that there's not a lot of trust involved any more with respect to your government and what you say and what you do being the same thing.

Obviously there is some doubt out there that you are a person of your word or that the Premier is a person of his word. Considering the promise you made last election about no expansion to either site without a full environmental assessment hearing and the fact this legislation is changing what you suggested you would do last election,

taking in the buffer zone and so on and so forth, why would anyone have any sense of comfort when you suggest, "These buffer zones are set aside and take my word on a few of these other changes in this legislation"? Why would anyone have any comfort in believing you, considering the fact that you promised not to expand these sites last election and in fact did?

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I don't think a question phrased in that particular way deserves an answer. But let me say yet again to the member that we had a number of decisions to make. What was in place when I became the minister was a process whereby two new interim landfill sites would be opened up—one in Brampton and one in Pickering—without a full environmental assessment.

**Mrs Caplan:** On a point of order, Mr Chair: I don't want to accuse the minister of misleading the House, but every time she says "without a full environmental assessment" she neglects the fact that a full environmental protection hearing was in place and being undergone. I ask her to mention that in her comments so that not only will she not mislead this House; she will not mislead the people of this province.

**The Chair:** Order. You know this word is not acceptable. I ask you to withdraw it.

**Mrs Caplan:** I have said I do not want anyone to be misled by the comments. I asked that the minister clarify so that no one would assume she was misleading. I did not say she misled; I said some might think she was misleading.

**The Chair:** Just don't play with words.

**Hon Mrs Grier:** I'm glad to expand my answer and say that those two new greenfield sites were to be opened without benefit of a full environmental assessment but under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act. The Environmental Protection Act does not allow for consideration of alternative sites. It merely indicates a site that has been selected for whatever reason, with no requirement that there in fact be the kind of environmental criteria approach to the selection of criteria, determination and consultation of criteria, that is now being undergone by the Interim Waste Authority.

No, in fact somehow it was decided that there would be two new sites—one in Brampton and one in Pickering—and that there would be a hearing under the Environmental Protection Act. At those hearings there would not have been an opportunity to discuss whether there might not be a better and more environmentally sound site somewhere in the vicinity.

Faced with the choice between that kind of inappropriate process for the determination of the appropriateness of brand-new sites or the continuation of two existing sites, sites which were operating, sites which were operating satisfactorily, I made the decision that we should continue the operation of those two existing and well-functioning sites and that we would make sure that any new sites for landfill in this province would be subject to a full environmental assessment. That is what Bill 143 will do and that is the position of this government.

**Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre):** Under the dictatorial procedures imposed on this bill and this



Legislature by this government, we now have one more minute to consider the provisions of this bill. I have just one thing to say in this final minute. The people of Ontario will defeat this government for a number of reasons. One of the primary, one of the first reasons, one of the things that will bring this government down three years from now or whenever it has the courage to call an election is the provisions of Bill 143.

It is the worst piece of environmental legislation ever put before a Legislature in the history of Canada and, I suggest, North America. It takes away the rights of people to be heard. It imposes the arbitrary will of a minister who used to preach sound principles and sound environmental policy. I just want to say in these final few seconds, remember this day and this moment and this hour because this bill will defeat you.

**The Chair:** It is now 5:45 pm. I will now interrupt the proceedings and I will put every question necessary to dispose of all remaining sections of the bill and any amendments thereto, and report the bill to the House.

Section 15:

**The Chair:** Shall the amendment proposed by Mr McClelland on subsection 15(3) carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote deferred.

**The Chair:** We'll now deal with the amendment of Mr McClelland to subsection 15(4).

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote deferred.

**The Chair:** We'll now deal with the amendment to section 15 brought in by Mr McClelland.

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote deferred.

Sections 16 to 18, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 19:

**The Chair:** The amendment to section 19 is out of order under section 54.

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** On what basis is it out of order?

**The Chair:** Under section 54.

Shall section 19 carry?

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote deferred.

Sections 20 to 26:

**The Chair:** Shall sections 20 to 26 carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote deferred.

Section 27:

**The Chair:** Shall Mr Offer's amendment to section 27 carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote deferred.

Sections 28 to 34:

**The Chair:** Shall sections 28 to 34 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote deferred.

Section 35:

**The Chair:** We'll now vote on Mr McClelland's amendment to section 35 of the bill. Withdrawn? Withdrawn.

Shall section 35 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote deferred.

1750

Sections 36 and 37:

**The Chair:** Shall sections 36 and 37 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote deferred.

1756

The committee divided on Mr McClelland's amendment to add section 2.1, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 35; nays 60.

The committee divided on whether sections 3 through 12, inclusive, should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether section 13 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether section 14 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on Mr McClelland's amendment to subsection 15(3), which was negated on the same vote.

The committee divided on Mr McClelland's amendment to subsection 15(4), which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 34; nays 61.

The committee divided on Mr McClelland's amendment to section 15, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 35; nays 60.

The committee divided on whether section 15 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether section 16 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether section 17 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether section 18 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether sections 19 to 26, inclusive, should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on Mr Offer's amendment to section 27, which was negated on the same vote.

The committee divided on whether section 27 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether sections 28 through 34, inclusive, should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether section 35 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether sections 36 and 37 should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

The committee divided on whether the bill should be ordered to be reported, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

**The Chair:** Mr Cooke moves that the committee rise and report.

Motion agreed to.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** The committee of the whole House begs to report one bill without amendment.

1810

The House divided on whether Bill 143 should be reported, which was agreed to on the following vote:

#### Ayes—59

Allen, Bisson, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Jamison;

Johnson, Klopp, Lankin, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, MacKinnon, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Ward (Don Mills), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

#### Nays—36

Arnott, Beer, Callahan, Caplan, Carr, Chiarelli, Cleary, Conway, Cousens, Cunningham, Daigeler, Eddy, Eves, Grandmaître, Harnick, Henderson, Jordan, Mancini, Marland, McClelland, McGuinty, McLean, Miclash, Morin, Murdoch (Grey), Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Ramsay, Sola, Sorbara, Stockwell, Turnbull, Villeneuve.

The House adjourned at 1818.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth  
Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	<b>Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud</b>	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	<b>Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances</b>	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	<b>Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony</b>	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	<b>North, Hon/L'hon Peter</b>	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	<b>Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.</b>	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathyssen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Simcoe West/-Ouest Sudbury	Wilson, Jim Murdock, Sharon	PC ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ vice-président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Présidente du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale



**COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

**STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS**

**Administration of justice/Administration de la justice**

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper

Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow

Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Winninger

Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

**Estimates/Budgets des dépenses**

Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Cameron Jackson, Wayne Lessard, Margaret Marland, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara

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**Finance and economic affairs/  
Finances et affaires économiques**

Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson, Ron Hansen, Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Kimble Sutherland, Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman

Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

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Règlements et projets de loi privés**

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Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

**Social development/Affaires sociales**

Chair/Président: Charles Beer

Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler

Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson,

Elizabeth Witmer

Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor





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No. 10

Nº 10

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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 22 April 1992

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Le mercredi 22 avril 1992

Speaker  
Honourable David Warner

Clerk  
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président  
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier  
Claude L. DesRosiers





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## **Table des matières**

La table des matières des séances rapportées dans ce numéro se trouve sur la couverture à l'arrière de ce fascicule.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 22 April 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** This opposition critic is not going to let the Attorney General do a "Martel" to this Legislature: a blind misreading of political ethics. What an unbelievable spectacle when the Attorney General justifies appointing an active political candidate, Emily Carasco, as chair of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee, which was established specifically "to remove any unwarranted criticism of political bias or patronage in appointments to the judiciary," yet the Attorney General says Carasco is just another appointee with political affiliations.

This is a ludicrous proposition. No other member of the committee was an active political candidate when appointed. Certainly this is an unacceptable precedent: an NDP candidate for Parliament appointed by the Attorney General four days before her nomination and continuing after her nomination. The Attorney General, in personally endorsing her continued chairing of this committee, demonstrates a blind misreading of the standards and ethics of his office.

Considering the special and sensitive nature of this committee in the appointment of judges, the Attorney General made a grievous error in appointing an active NDP political candidate, not merely a party member, as chair and now aggravates the matter with a feeble and inappropriate defence.

The Premier should know his Attorney General not only lacks an agenda; he lacks a fundamental understanding of the ethics imposed on this high office.

### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

**Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South):** I rise to call to the attention of all members that it is now one year since the Premier made his arbitrary decision to remove the name of our head of state, the Queen of Canada, from the oath of allegiance sworn by police officers in Ontario.

By refusing to act on the calls of many thousands of Ontario citizens, heads of police boards, members of his own political party, and most recently the former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Lincoln Alexander, to reinstate Her Majesty's name in the oath, the Premier continues to display a disconcerting contempt for the central cornerstone on which Canada's historic traditions of parliamentary democracy and great reputation as an international peacekeeper are established.

By attacking the crown, the Premier strikes at the very source of our national unity and protection against the arbitrary use of political power. He also downplays the traditional roots of our unique Canadian identity, which has for years allowed Canadians to take pride in their social, polit-

ical and cultural distinctiveness, separate from their American neighbours.

On this, the first, and it is to be hoped the last, anniversary of this draconian decision, I again join with the citizens of Ontario and the Ontario police boards in calling on the Premier and his NDP cabinet to withdraw their decision, reinstate the Queen's name in the oath and to apologize for the offence they have given to all Canadian citizens. God save the Queen.

### CITY OF BARRIE

**Mr Paul Wessinger (Simcoe Centre):** I would like to bring to the attention of this House the economic and personal damage that has been inflicted on the city of Barrie by this long, continuing recession or depression.

I was astounded when I looked at statistics showing approximately 13% of the population of the city of Barrie depended upon social assistance, with an additional 10% of the workforce on unemployment insurance. When we look at the fact that over 2,700 manufacturing jobs have been lost in the city of Barrie since the free trade agreement was instituted in 1989, it is no wonder we have such a critical situation.

Over 3,000 people on social assistance potentially could be employed if jobs and child care were available. These statistics also show a large proportion of employable persons who have an education level of grade 11 or less.

We clearly need a change in economic direction at the federal level which will promote investment in new plant technology, research and development, encourage import replacement, provide a competitive Canadian dollar and lower interest rates.

At the provincial level, we need to establish our own industrial strategy to encourage new investment and high value added production, to promote marketing of Ontario products, services and technology, to develop a job strategy program and to have more coordinated and effective skill training programs by proceeding quickly with our government's Ontario Training and Adjustment Board program.

We must prepare for the needed future learning skills and reduce the wastefulness of our high educational drop-out rate. We need to turn our social assistance program from a dependency to a transition program, so that recipients will be able to participate fully in the needed jobs of the future.

In conclusion, I would like to remind my government that Barrie, a former "have" area of the province, has now become a more needy economic area and would ask that it be given the appropriate attention in future decision-making.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North):** Today is Earth Day, a day in which the people of Ontario plant trees, put on environmental displays, attend green rallies and stop to think about our planet and how to make it



greener. In fact, Earth Day is an opportunity for people to have fun going green.

But today is also a sad day in some respects in Ontario, when we pause to remember the unfulfilled commitments made by this NDP Minister of the Environment. I remind this House and the minister that in her opposition days she seemed to have all the answers to Ontario's environmental woes. In fact, during the 1990 election campaign, her leader, now the Premier, made the following pledges to the people of Ontario: (1) zero discharge of all toxic chemicals by the year 2000; (2) a ban on toxic organochlorine dumping by 1993; (3) an immediate ban on CFCs, with a complete ban of all ozone-destroying CFCs by 1995; (4) a commitment for a safe drinking water act; (5) a commitment—the cornerstone of the NDP agenda—to an environmental bill of rights.

I say to the minister, I remind you of those words you said a year ago in this House today, and these were her words then: "Earth Day is a time for us to renew our commitment to the restoration and protection of the environment for the generations to follow."

It has been 365 days since the minister uttered those words in this House and almost 18 months since she has been in office, yet we have seen no concrete action on any of her pledges.

I remind the minister that it is one thing to talk; it is another thing to do something. We have to know, when will the minister start to do something about the pledges she and her government made?

#### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** This morning the Education Relations Commission called the Ottawa school board trustees and the secondary school teachers back to the negotiating table with a deadline that they reach agreement by 11 am Thursday morning or the commission will advise the minister that the students' education is in jeopardy.

In other words, "jeopardy" has nothing to do with the students' education, but everything to do with labour relations and negotiations. Why don't we do away with the Education Relations Commission?

The Treasurer must take full responsibility for both the Ottawa board strike and the Carleton board strike, in that he ran the red flag up the pole when he announced on January 27 reduced transfers to both of these boards. Prior to his announcement, both sides in these two disputes were talking and making headway in their contract negotiations.

Immediately after his announcement—as a matter of fact within hours—both boards withdrew their offers and they have been unable to resolve the disputes since. Never before has a provincial government caused two strikes like these. This same government has shown little leadership in resolving the problem it has itself created. The 27,000 students in the Ottawa-Carleton area are paying very dearly and a very high price for this government's incompetence.

1340

#### ARC INDUSTRIES

**Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough):** I stand in the House today to bring to your attention, Mr Speaker, the 30th anniversary of ARC Industries in Peterborough. On February 28 I had the opportunity to visit them and join in their celebration.

ARC Industries was originally conceived by concerned parents who wanted fuller life experiences for their sons and daughters who were developmentally handicapped. Over the past 30 years, ARC Industries in Peterborough has evolved into an organization that employs more than 90 workers and is playing an increasingly large role in our local economy; 75% of the production at ARC Industries is the result of work contracted out to them by larger corporations in Peterborough. Quaker Oats, Johnson and Johnson, General Electric and Fisher Gauge are but a few examples of local companies which have benefited by providing work in light assembly and packaging for ARC Industries.

It is a testament to their success that some workers are able to progress from the workshop to other programs or competitive employment.

It is my pleasure to introduce to the House today, sitting in the visitors' gallery, from ARC Industries in Peterborough, Bill Whawell, David Quinlan, Dawn Clark, David McQuaig, Barb Dunk, Linda Shisko and Ben Taylor.

Mr Speaker, I'm sure that you and other members of this House will join me in congratulating ARC Industries on its 30th anniversary celebration as well as wishing it continued success in the years to come.

#### CONTAMINATED SOIL

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** The Minister of Government Services recently announced a cleanup of soil containing low-level radioactive particles in the Malvern community in northeast Scarborough. The initiative in principle is rather praiseworthy, and it continues some of the programs of previous governments, including the telephone information line and storefront information office set up under the Liberal government in conjunction with the federal government.

The minister's proposal is that the contaminated soil, from which the most highly radioactive particles have already been removed and sent to Chalk River, be moved from its current temporary site in the Malvern community to another temporary site in the same community.

What my constituents would like to know is why the Ministry of Revenue doesn't seem to share the government's concern with this contaminated soil. Until recently homes in the area were assessed at a lower rate due to the presence of the contaminated soil. Apparently the Ministry of Revenue believes there is no longer a problem, and property taxes for some Malvern residents have increased from a nominal \$100 to 75% of market value as a result.

We are extremely concerned, and I hope both ministers can get together and make sure that this does not happen to my constituents in the Malvern-McClure area.



## REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** My statement concerns the cash-strapped government's proposal to implement video lottery terminals, casino gambling and sports betting in the province of Ontario. Before anything is implemented, I believe this government should take a long, hard look at this scheme because of the detrimental effect it could have on locally based community support programs and the potential loss of jobs at facilities like the Barrie Raceway.

The Royal Canadian Legion and service clubs in communities like Orillia, Penetanguishene, Coldwater and Elmvalle provide funding for community sports organizations, local charities and many other worthwhile endeavours through bingos, the sale of Nevada tickets and other similar lotteries. There is growing concern that the government's proposals will seriously undercut the work of community support programs throughout Ontario.

There is also growing concern that the government's proposals will have a serious impact on employment at racetracks in Barrie, Orangeville and Peterborough, to name but a few. Racing in Ontario provides employment for more than 50,000 people, many of them on breeding farms and in supply businesses not readily associated with the activities of a racetrack.

I have serious reservations that this government is moving too fast and really does not understand the impact its ill-advised proposals will have on locally based community programs and employment. This government appears to be too eager to gamble with Ontario's future.

## EARTH DAY

**Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre):** I rise in the House today to join members in celebrating the 22nd annual Earth Day. As members may recall, on Thursday, December 5, 1991, I introduced a bill in this House proclaiming April 22 in each year as Earth Day. This bill is intended to encourage the participation in community, provincial, national and international activities that share a common purpose with the activities organized by the Earth Day movement. This bill was supported unanimously, and I thank members of all parties for their support. Due to your overwhelming response, I am hopeful that this bill will proceed to third reading and royal assent as soon as possible.

Earth Day seeks to foster environmental awareness and responsibility using the celebration of Earth Day as a focus. Over 45 communities and 500,000 people participated in Earth Day activities last year, and more are expected to get involved today, including approximately 100,000 school children.

Today I had the privilege of participating in a tree-planting ceremony in my riding of Hamilton Centre at Bayview Park, which overlooks our beautiful Hamilton Harbour. Hamiltonians were most appreciative of the substantial provincial dollars provided for the cleanup of the waterfront and the development of adjacent parkland. At the tree-planting, Mayor Bob Morrow and Alderman Dave Wilson proclaimed April 22 Earth Day in Hamilton. In recognition and to show their support for my Earth Day

bill, I was presented with today's proclamation. I am proud to have that proclamation with me to share with members of this House.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank those individuals who have worked so very hard to organize the numerous Earth Day events and for their commitment and dedication to the environmental movement.

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

## TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING

**Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education):** I am pleased to announce today that the government will make available a total of \$50.2 million to support structural change in Ontario's school system. This funding is made up of an allocation of \$26.2 million from the transition assistance fund announced by the Treasurer in January and a \$24-million contribution of in-year savings from the Ministry of Education and other branches of government.

Reform of the education sector is an important part of the government's plans to invest in our province's greatest strength: our people. If school boards, teachers and other education employees are to continue meeting the needs of the young people of their communities, they must be prepared and encouraged to operate in a more cooperative way.

Greater cooperation means recognizing that there is a direct link between the quality of the total education program and the people who deliver the program. Whether we are talking about junior kindergarten, English as a second language or any other of the important programs and services offered by our school system, it must be understood that protecting the quality of education necessarily involves taking steps to preserve jobs. Cooperation also means greater cost-effectiveness in the delivery of education. It represents greater opportunities to develop innovative solutions that have broad community support.

These are critical objectives to guide our schools through this time of fiscal constraint. They will be equally critical in the longer-term future. However, it is clear that there are substantial barriers to achieving greater cooperation in the education sector. One such barrier is inflexibility in employee-employer relations, which continues to have a significant effect on the collective bargaining process.

The transition funding to education will therefore target this and other barriers. Above all, it will be used to promote greater cooperation between school boards and their employees, and \$41 million, 80% of the available funds, will be directed to this strategic area of employer-employee cooperation.

These initiatives will address labour adjustment issues such as the establishment of balanced and affordable contracts between school boards and unions and federations through lower wage settlements in return for enhanced employment security and other negotiated benefits, or they will support innovative employer-employee plans to restructure school board operations. Such plans could involve, for example, new approaches to the delivery of curriculum, professional development or to integrating children's services. These plans could also include joint



planning with other school boards, municipalities, social service agencies or other community partners.

The remaining \$9.2 million will support the development of local administrative cooperatives between school boards and other agencies in the broader public sector. As well, a portion of these funds will be available to assist school boards in the same area to obtain computer hardware and software to help plan the sharing of school bus routes.

We are continuing to work with representatives of trustee organizations, teachers' federations and support staff unions to establish a process for approving proposals and distributing funds. I will be issuing more detailed guidelines about this in the near future.

However, I would like to inform the members that there are basic criteria that all proposals submitted must meet. They must involve restructuring to a new way of doing business that maintains or improves the quality of education programs and services; they must be developed through employer-employee cooperation; they must reflect progressive human resource policies and practices; they must demonstrate significant cost savings over a three-year period, and they must include a process to ensure that there is accountability for the success of the proposals.

As these criteria indicate, this funding will promote lasting structural change in the operation of Ontario's school system. The education community is aware of this goal and understands that the funds will not be available as a quick fix for immediate operating pressures such as salaries.

Our government's commitment of the \$160-million fund to the health, post-secondary and now the elementary and secondary education sectors reflects the conviction that meeting the challenge of economic constraint requires fundamental change in the structures and operations of Ontario's broader public sector, but this funding also looks beyond the short term. It looks towards economic renewal and recovery built upon cooperation and a new spirit of partnership.

1350

## RESPONSES

### TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING FONDS D'AIDE TRANSITOIRE

**Mr Charles Beer (York North):** I want to respond to the minister's statement and to begin with some comments about some things that are under way today and that we in this House all hope are going to be resolved, which is the strike that is ongoing in Ottawa. I think to remind you, Minister, of the importance of those discussions today and of what we in this House and indeed what the parents in Ottawa are going to be looking for tomorrow when we come back into this House. We'll be expecting a statement from you that will be in effect announcing the end of that strike.

I want to leave with you one quote which is in the Ottawa Citizen today, where a senior Ottawa Board of Education official, in fact the director of education, Bob Gillett, states: "This is the jeopardy week. We believe

many students are now in jeopardy." Surely the focus here has to be on the welfare of the students, and surely therefore, you and the Education Relations Commission and the teachers and the board must be thinking about that today and tomorrow.

With that as a backdrop to this particular statement, we then see that some \$50.2 million has been made available by your ministry, of which we really do not know where some \$24 million came from and indeed what programs may have been cut in order to deal with those programs. You mentioned junior kindergarten, you mentioned English as a second language, many other programs. How many of those could have been better provided if these dollars, which you've evidently found from here and there, had been allocated earlier or perhaps had not been taken from programs that are necessary?

We hear today that in Peel some 200-plus teachers have been laid off because of the policies of your government, which is only providing a 1% transfer payment. That is a reality. These dollars don't deal with that reality.

You say in this document that the transition funding is going to move us towards better labour-management relations, but how can that be when in fact through the very policies that your government has taken forward—its lack of funding, its loading up of the agenda; look at what school boards are currently dealing with. We know the Fair Tax Commission is dealing with education financing. You're looking at education financing. The Minister of Municipal Affairs is looking at disentanglement. All of that includes the boards.

We're talking about restructuring. We're talking about governance. We're talking about changing curriculum evaluation and redesign. We're talking about the testing and assessment of children to ensure they can compete in the global economy. We're talking about the evaluation, indeed, of the future role of education in our society. We're talking about teacher training. We're also supposed to be talking about integration and special education. That \$24 million that many parents have been waiting for now for the two years that your government has been in office could perhaps well have been spent to assist more kids with special needs in getting the education they need.

Instead we have a statement which frankly does not speak to and does not help those substantive problems that exist in the education system. Quite frankly, I believe what is needed is for the minister to convene an education summit. That summit is needed because of the nature of the issues that we have, because school boards are getting one message, teachers' federations are getting one message and parents are getting another. The people of this province see no vision from this government in terms of where it is going.

En plus, il faut dire que la communauté francophone attend et attend une déclaration claire de la politique de ce gouvernement en ce qui concerne le rapport Cousineau et exactement ce qu'on va faire pour assurer les droits de notre minorité linguistique. Encore une fois, on nous donne 50 millions de dollars, mais pourquoi ? C'est une déclaration qui est pleine de mots, mais dont on ne sait pas



exactement l'effet immédiat et concret sur le système de l'éducation de notre province.

The minister's statement, in providing some money for real programs, would have been very helpful to school boards. The needs right now and the focus right now must be on the very difficult problems which school boards are experiencing because of the strange and erratic funding procedures and policies of this government. If we are to end this climate of uncertainty, the Minister of Education is going to have to become directly involved with all the partners and to truly develop the sense of partnership he says he wants.

The place to begin is to ensure that by tomorrow the strikes in Ottawa and Carleton are over and that we can then really focus on those real and immediate needs that the system has. If that happens, then perhaps there is some value to this statement being made today.

**Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North):** Again we're seeing a government that absolutely has put out a statement today that I don't know if anybody could understand even if they try. As far as I'm concerned, it's just unnecessary. It isn't providing some lasting structural change in the operation of Ontario's school system, which is exactly what we need: some major structural changes. I hate to stand up here and be negative after the accusation from the Premier last week when he accused us of asking for more money, but I'll tell you right now, Mr Speaker, this kind of money at this stage in financial planning, some piecemeal, Band-Aid approach to a very big problem, is not helpful; it's harmful.

We can take a look at the promises in this statement: "Demonstrate significant cost savings over a three-year period." School boards are asked to do this with the budgets they've got right now? That's not even realistic. "Include a process to ensure that there is accountability for the success of the proposal"? All we're talking about is asking them to do more things for government, as opposed to teaching children in classrooms.

We take a look at the awards that arbitrators have given throughout the province. I've just been made aware of one of 7.5% where that board will have to reduce 22.5 teaching assistant positions which are helping special education children; clerical positions by 5.6. Settlement figures are still coming in and this minister sits there and does nothing about it.

You cannot, for the first time in the history of the province of Ontario—1986, 5.4% in operating grants; 1987, 6%; 1988, 6.8%; 1989, 6.1%; 1990, 8.7%; 1991, 7.9%—this year give 1% and pretend you haven't got a problem. Of course you have a problem.

This minister should be telling school boards and teachers to open collective agreements for two reasons. First of all, they can accept reasonable and responsible salaries. Second, they're going to have to take a look at class size in order to maintain the teaching positions and talk about quality education. We cannot dismantle school boards across this province.

At the same time, I asked the minister a question last week. I said, "Would you at least stand up and say you're not going to mandate programs down the road like junior

kindergarten?" He refused to do that. He's handing out \$50 million from an operating budget of \$4.9 billion to school boards this year, and pretending this is some big deal. The public are too smart for this. They know this is a carrot. This is the old style of politics. This government came in and said it would do things in a different way.

The Premier's smiling, but I don't like to be quoted out of context. I did not say, Mr Premier, to give them more money. I said take a bigger percentage of the whole provincial pie and put it where it matters, in the front lines of services to the public: health care, housing, education, the whole thing. We have not asked for more money. Right now you've asked school boards to do something totally unrealistic.

I'm going to sit down. There's so much more to say to this government. This is irresponsible and a silly way to manage your budget. The public and the teachers and the kids are too smart. They know what's happening. Enough is enough. When are you going to smarten up and manage Ontario like you said you would?

1400

**Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton):** I find this a sad day in the Legislature when the Treasurer, on January 27, pulls the rug from underneath the Carleton Board of Education and the Ottawa Board of Education in decreasing the grants he is giving them over the next few years; pulls the rug from underneath the 27,000 students who are now out of class because of the lack of support of this government; and then we have this government come in and be willing to spend \$50 million on some restructuring of the system. Minister, we all know we're not getting our money's worth in the education system. Tell your administration to smarten up and make some decisions and show some leadership in this province. We need decisions; we don't need any more study.

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** I would certainly echo some of the comments that have been made by my colleague from London North. I am extremely disappointed. This statement today obviously makes no attempt to meet the real needs of young people in this province. It does nothing to address the very critical issues facing them. In fact, I see very little reference here to young people or students in any way.

We have now had the Peel Board of Education, as has been indicated, cancel its junior kindergarten program. I want you to know, Mr Minister, it's going to have a tremendous impact on students, on families and on staff, and that's not even considered here.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My first question is for the Premier, and I would think my first question would not come as a surprise to the Premier, although, to be very honest, we on this side of the House were somewhat surprised this morning, and perhaps members of the government caucus were a little surprised, to read in the Toronto Star that this government may apparently



have already decided, behind closed doors, to bring legalized casino gambling to Ontario.

We would all agree that whatever the decisions are about opening casinos across Ontario, that decision to open casinos could change the face of the province, yet there has been no consultation and no open debate with the people of this province. This Premier makes many fine statements about consultation and about the openness of his government, yet once again the words simply don't match the actions.

I would ask the Premier how his government can possibly even consider making a decision of this magnitude behind closed doors, without the benefit of public consultation and public debate.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** This jurisdiction, together with almost every other jurisdiction in North America and elsewhere in the world, is looking at a reform of gaming and gaming laws; every other jurisdiction is looking at similar questions. I simply tell the honourable member that no final decisions have been made by the cabinet at all.

**Mrs McLeod:** Nevertheless we are certainly all aware that this issue is being discussed, and we suspect discussed at some length, behind the cabinet doors. We wonder if the Premier and his government are in fact putting a lot of their energy behind this particular initiative. While key initiatives like the industrial strategy seem to languish rather endlessly, casinos, on the other hand, seem to have become almost a fait accompli within a matter of weeks.

It seems interesting to us that in the past, when he was Leader of the Opposition, the Premier expressed some very strong concerns about the integrity of previous governments. He frequently denounced lotteries, casinos, the greediness of modern society, and he vowed that his government would adhere to a higher standard of integrity and conduct than ever before. In fact, it was just in 1990 that the Premier wrote, "The casino plays on greed, the sense of the ultimate chance, the hope against hope that the spin of the wheel or the shoot of the dice will produce instant wealth, instant power, instant gratification." I would ask the Premier why he has changed his position on casino gambling so completely.

**Hon Mr Rae:** I want to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition for the quality of her research. I simply repeat to the honourable member the answer I've given, that no final decisions by the government have been made in this area at all.

**Mrs McLeod:** I realize fully that it's not my responsibility to provide answers to the Premier as well as to ask the questions, but I'm a little surprised; when I asked why his position has changed, he might have responded by at least referencing the rather desperate economic situation of border communities like Windsor that are making the proposals for casino gambling. There is no question in the minds of any of us that the people of Windsor and the people in communities across this province are indeed desperate. The Windsor economy is shattered in large part because of the impact of cross-border shopping.

We also all know that mayors of border communities have been pressing this government for some action, any action, to alleviate the kind of serious problems they're facing. They've asked for wide-open Sunday shopping to stem the tide of shoppers crossing the border to the United States, and they've asked that the gas tax be reduced, also to stem cross-border shopping, yet the government has not responded to any of the requests in these areas. I suggest to the Premier that it's not surprising that communities are rather desperate for gambling casinos, because the government has given them nothing else to grasp. No other alternative has been offered.

If the Premier is prepared to consider opening casinos to assist the beleaguered economies of Windsor and other communities, will he also consider the other alternative solutions those communities have been pressing him for?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The honourable member has to put it in the context of what is also going on in New York state, Quebec, Manitoba, Michigan—what's going on in competing jurisdictions. This is the reality we have to deal with as a government, as I am sure she would—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the Premier take his seat, please.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Premier.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Obviously this government is considering, as any government would consider, proposals that have come from border communities and mayors in all parts of the province. The Treasurer and the government have carried out the most extensive pre-budget consultation of any recent government, so it's only natural we would consider any reasonable proposals that are put forward.

#### RETAIL SALES TAX

**Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition):** My second question is also to the Premier. It's a little tempting to consider this a rather non-enlightening exchange, but I will now turn my attention and the attention of the Premier to yet another of the issues causing this economy literally to lurch from one crisis to another. The Premier has just mentioned the Treasurer's pre-budget consultations. It's exactly that issue I wanted to come back to.

The Premier is well aware that the Treasurer has told Ontario that it can expect substantial tax increases in next week's budget. I suppose we can only hope that the Treasurer is simply warning people of that so that they'll be relieved when he actually doesn't carry forward with that proposal.

We're concerned that one idea the government seems to have is to increase the numbers of goods and services covered by the provincial sales tax; such things as children's clothing and books could be taxed to pay for the NDP's last disastrous budget. But every proposal to change the provincial sales tax, according to the Treasurer's own consultative working group, will cost Ontarians jobs. I ask the Premier to commit to not changing

the provincial sales tax system when his own studies say that such a move will simply cost more jobs.

1410

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I must congratulate the honourable member, because this is a time-trusted, if slightly time-worn, strategy in opposition in the week prior to the budget: asking me as the leader of the government or the Treasurer to either rule out or rule in certain tax measures or any kinds of tax measures that she will list and could list.

She could parade all kinds of horrors in front of us and say: "Are you going to do this? Are you going to do that? Won't you at least commit to not doing that?" The honourable member knows perfectly well that I'm not about to reveal or discuss any budget proposals in the House prior to their being presented to the House by the Treasurer. She knows perfectly well that I can't do that under the traditions of this place.

I simply say to her that this government is committed to being as fair as possible, to being as realistic as possible and to doing as much as it can to create employment in the province. Those are the commitments we've made to the people.

**Mrs McLeod:** I don't indulge in time-worn strategies. This is a real day in Ontario and this government has to deal with the realities of today. I am as desperately concerned about the economic situation of this province as the people in the communities across the province are.

Mr Speaker, we know how desperate this government is for new tax revenue and we know the government thinks it can get that by broadening the base of the province's sales tax. The Fair Tax Commission's sales tax working group says that kind of move could cost anywhere up to 32,000 jobs even if the change in the tax is revenue-neutral—although we hope the Treasurer hasn't learned about revenue-neutral taxes from Michael Wilson. In other words, if the Premier actually wants more money from this new tax—

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Order.

**Mrs McLeod:** I want to make the point very clear. If the Premier actually wants more money from a new sales tax or a change in the sales tax, he will have to actually increase the sales tax people are paying and throw even more people out of work. I ask the Premier why his government is considering this kind of sales tax grab when he knows such a move will only lengthen the lineups at the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

**Hon Mr Rae:** Let me say to the honourable member that hers was the party that last raised the sales tax. Our party reduced the impact of the sales tax, in one of the first actions we took as government, by up to nearly \$500 million. That is the kind of commitment we've shown as a party in terms of that issue.

As she's quoted so strongly from the Fair Tax Commission, I can obviously tell her that it's precisely the kinds of arguments and concerns that have been expressed

by the Fair Tax Commission that of course the government would take into account in drawing up its budget.

**Mrs McLeod:** When you develop a budget in a particular year, surely you look at the realities of that particular day. This government has certainly understood it can't spend its way out of a recession. Surely they can understand that you can't tax your way out of a recession either. This government makes economic renewal its own priority. We simply want to reinforce the fact that job maintenance and job creation have to be the number one priority for this government and for the budget it's going to present. When you boost taxes, obviously it's going to take money out of the pockets of Ontarians, who are not going to buy things, and then companies are going to lay off workers.

I'm sorry to see that today we have yet another example of this depressing cycle, with Dofasco having announced that it will cut more than 1,000 jobs by year's end because not enough people can afford to buy cars and other products that use the company's steel.

In March, more than 1,000 people lost their jobs every day in Ontario and it looks like the trend is continuing in April. I would simply ask the Premier why he is looking at tax increases when it is only through holding taxes down that his government can actually get Ontario working again.

**Hon Mr Rae:** The party that raised taxes 33 times in its budgets between 1985 and 1990 is now parading as if it's got religion. It won't wash. It just won't wash and it won't add up. I would simply say this to the honourable member: She is very quickly falling into what we now know are the traditions of Liberalism in opposition: Don't raise taxes, spend more money and lower the deficit. To describe that as voodoo is to pay it a compliment.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

#### REVENUE FROM GAMING

**Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel):** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I'd like to pursue the area raised by the leader of the official opposition on how the government intends to fund this province by gambling, and specifically to carry on with how the indignant Premier has reversed his speech, the casino-plays-on-greed issue. Madam Minister, having heard that and having watched the roulette wheel of your government go around for the last week when we last asked you the question, can you tell us, in your opinion how many jobs will be lost as a result of this decision you're about to make?

Interjections.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Will the member for St George-St David come to order, please.

**Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations):** I would just like to tell the member and reiterate what the Premier said earlier and what I said last week when questioned about this. No final decision has been made. This is one of the many areas this government has been exploring in terms of non-tax revenue.



We have had discussions about it. We will continue to discuss it, but no decision has been made at this point.

1420

**Mr Tilson:** The question had to do with the loss of jobs, not non-tax revenue or all the other funny words you're trying to develop over there. The question was, how many jobs is it going to cost the people of this province? You obviously have no idea. This is nothing more than Bugsy Laughren's desperate effort to get his hands on a few more bucks; nothing more. That's all you're up to. You're gambling with every charity, every amateur hockey team, every raceway. You're gambling in the dark, Madam Minister. Has your decision been based on anything other than a bettor's hunch?

**Hon Ms Churley:** I had trouble hearing the last question because of the din from the other side. I don't know if it's in the rules, but if he—

Interjections.

**Hon Ms Churley:** There it goes again. However, I believe the member's talking about lost jobs, etc. I would like to point out that in the process of deliberating this question and during the process of consideration, I have consulted quite widely to date.

I believe the member is concerned about the horse racing industry in particular. Over time, I have met with a variety of people from the horse racing industry, including the Ontario Harness Horsemen's Association, the Ontario Horse Breeders Association and the chair of the Ontario Racing Commission etc, and will continue to do that.

I have said in the past, and will say again, that we are taking a very balanced approach to this. It's of great concern to me that we balance all the issues we're talking about here. Of course we're taking into consideration, when we have these discussions, the impact it would have on charities and the horse racing industry. We will continue to take that into consideration and consult on those matters.

**Mr Tilson:** Madam Minister, we're very concerned over here as to which way you're going on this. We're concerned on a number of issues, because your answers seem to be all over the place. In fact, I'm waiting for Wayne Newton to be the new Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Madam Minister, will you tell me this: When you were a councillor, how did you vote on the issue of gambling, when that matter would come before you, at the Canadian National Exhibition? Would you tell us that? How did you vote?

**Hon Ms Churley:** I really don't think that is relevant to the questions that are being asked today.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Would the minister take her seat, please?

Interjections.

**Hon Ms Churley:** I believe our position here is very clear.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Order.

**Hon Ms Churley:** I'll address my comments to you, Mr Speaker.

Interjections.

**The Speaker:** Would the member take her seat. This House stands recessed for 10 minutes.

The House recessed at 1425.

1436

#### PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** Mr Speaker, through you to the Minister of Government Services, who is just coming in, we have just learned that the ministry has spent over \$1 million on the NDP propaganda phone line. Will the minister tell the House what the government is planning to spend on polling in the next few years?

**Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services):** The actual sum of money we will be spending on all types of polling in the next few years is difficult to say at this time. But where polling is considered necessary and part of government policy, we certainly will poll.

**Mr Turnbull:** I am inclined to say perhaps we need a recess for 10 minutes so the minister can check what he should respond with.

Your government seems to be ignoring the public opinion polls on labour law, which are available free to you. I hope you are not going to plan to do polling until you find some people who will agree with you, because the province will be bankrupt if you do that.

I have a copy of a proposal. It is a request for a proposal for opinion polling over the next three years. According to this document, one or more contracts for both qualitative and quantitative work will be awarded for up to \$500,000 each. That is a minimum of \$1 million. Will you tell us, is it going to be \$1 million, \$2 million or \$3 million, and can you guarantee that the polling data are going to be made available to the public, the taxpayers who are paying for them and this House?

**Hon Mr Wilson:** The setting of tenders for whatever object, whether it's for polling or for other service to the government, is a matter of course. I am not at liberty to discuss any tendering action in this House at this time.

**Mr Turnbull:** That is the most idiotic answer I have ever heard. The request for tender is a public document. We know that the Liberals took a poll before they sneezed. It looks as if your government is going to do the same thing.

I notice in the proposal, which you don't seem to know about, Minister—and I quote from it—it says, "Describe the particular subsets of the Ontario population that are, in your opinion, most important in polling for the Ontario government." Could the minister tell me what subsets of the Ontario population his government considers to be politically correct for polling purposes?

**Hon Mr Wilson:** I simply will not discuss a proposal for tender before this House. You know it is irregular. But I will tell you this. Any information we do gather from polling, by whatever method, will be made available to the public.

**Mr Turnbull:** When?

**Hon Mr Wilson:** When the polls are taken and the questions are given.

#### ONTARIO ECONOMY

**Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South):** In the absence of the Minister of Labour I would like to direct my question to the Premier of Ontario. Premier, as you are aware, Ontario, and specifically southwestern Ontario, is experiencing deindustrialization through plant closures and job losses at a rate never seen before in the province. In 1991, 118 complete plant closures took place, and 14,269 employees were affected by these closures.

Premier, your government has had more than 18 months to put in place initiatives to deal with this deindustrialization. So far we have seen nothing coming from the Ministry of Labour or any other important ministry to deal with the problems these workers are facing. Could you please tell me what initiatives are ready to go today? After 18 months in office, which initiatives can in fact be implemented today which will be able to help workers who have lost their jobs through this deindustrialization?

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** Let's not forget that it was just a little over a week ago—and I discussed this with the honourable member just as he was coming over here to be nice just a few minutes ago. I said to him the investment—

Interjection.

**Hon Mr Rae:** No, that is another reason, but you have to be pretty forgetful to forget the fact that it was just eight days ago that Ford of Canada announced a \$1-billion investment in Windsor. The honourable member says that's not important or that's what happened last week. That's a very, very substantial investment that's being made.

**Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean):** What did you pay?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The member for Nepean says what did we do. I can assure the honourable member, and he will know this if he reflects on it for a moment, that of course discussions with the government were a factor in terms of the decision that was made by Ford of Canada with respect to its investments in Oakville and its decisions in Windsor. I can also tell the honourable member that the budget will obviously need to address the crucial need for new investment and for regional development and for jobs, and that's what the budget is going to address.

**Mr Mancini:** Today we learned that Dofasco Inc of Hamilton is restructuring and downsizing its plants, costing over 1,000 jobs. The Ford announcement will not help those 1,000 workers. Yesterday we received notice that the Allied Chemicals plant in Anderdon township, near Amherstburg, was to be mothballed; 100 jobs have been lost. The vast majority of these 100 jobs are highly skilled, well-paying jobs, allowing employees to earn \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year. We are not talking about minimum-paying jobs; we are talking about high-wage, high-economic-spinoff jobs.

I want to know from the Premier—and you'll be going to Windsor soon, so you might want to address the Allied workers directly—what do these employees who were

fired yesterday have to look forward to and what can you do to be of assistance to these workers who are losing their jobs and the communities that are losing their tax base during these difficult economic times?

**Hon Mr Rae:** The honourable member will know that what we are experiencing is very difficult. I'm not denying that for a moment. I cannot put sugar on what is a very difficult pill in terms of what is happening to the province. What I can tell the honourable member is that there are signs that the recovery is going to be stronger at the end of 1992, that we are going to have to attract new investment, that we're going to have to create new jobs, that we're going to have to do a better job on training, that we're going to have to do a better job in terms of ensuring that there is new investment and the expansion of existing investment; that's exactly what we're trying to do. It isn't easy.

I would say to the honourable member that the layoffs didn't start on September 6, 1990. He knows perfectly well that this process we're going through as a province has roots that are a fact for us as a province that we're going to have to contend with, and I don't have a magic wand. What we do have is a commitment in this budget, as in the last budget, to create more jobs and to encourage more investment, and that is precisely the commitment we make to the people of the province as we go through these tough times together.

#### PEPPER SPRAY TESTING

**Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville):** I have a question for the Solicitor General related to the NDP government's lack of support for policing in this province. The Solicitor General professes to be supportive of police. I would like to ask him what he is doing in respect to a recommendation by the provincial equipment advisory committee to field test pepper spray. We're talking about a non-toxic spray police could use to apprehend criminals, a spray police are currently using in British Columbia. What are you doing about that, Minister?

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General):** The honourable member refers to a product called Capsicum. He refers to it as a pepper-based product; the trade name is Capsicum. It is a product being field tested in the province of British Columbia and in other jurisdictions. Our ministry has recently received those field test results. We are considering and reviewing them in terms of their applicability to the jurisdiction of policing here in Ontario. When we complete those testings and considerations, we will advise police services boards throughout the province as to whether the ministry recommends their particular use.

**Mr Runciman:** I don't know how to respond to that. I'm not sure whether this minister is deliberately misleading the House or is simply unaware of what's going on, but I can't believe that, based on the facts before me.

This recommendation was on this minister's desk back in October of last year. The Liberals had it in February 1990 and did not act upon it.

**Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs):** I wonder why.



**Mr Runciman:** Yes, I wonder why.

To suggest that British Columbia is conducting field tests—that's not the case. There are now six police forces in British Columbia using it.

The minister had this proposal before him, I am told, in October or November of last year, and the minister's response when it was placed before him for signature and approval for field testing was: "This is too controversial. I don't want to end up on the back bench"—that from the man who's supposed to represent police interests around the cabinet table.

The minister simply didn't have the intestinal fortitude to stand up for the police because he's more concerned about his own political future. He won't stand up for this province's policemen and policewomen because that would mean taking on the anti-police string-pullers in the Premier's office. We just heard the Premier's reaction when we talked about this pepper spray that's going to help policemen and policewomen in this province.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Does the member have a supplementary?

**Mr Runciman:** Minister, why won't you commit yourself today to an immediate field testing of pepper spray?

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** The quote the honourable member attributed to me I would have found much more authoritative had he quoted the source of this alleged quote, or whoever said I said such a thing. In terms of being concerned about moving to the back bench, if that were the case, at least I wouldn't have far to go, because I'm almost there now.

Interjections.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** Thank you very much. I appreciate the support of the honourable member for St George-St David and suggest to him that while I haven't reached the back benches, he's obviously reached a bench he should be concerned about.

None the less, the item was in fact brought to the desk. It is a question that does fall within the gamut of the use of force. It is a matter, as I indicated to him, that was being field tested in British Columbia. I was waiting on that government to make a determination as to whether it would endorse it for its police forces throughout the province. The matter is current, it is before us, and we will be making a decision in the not-too-distant future.

1450

#### CREDIT UNIONS

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Financial Institutions. Mr Minister, in my riding of Durham East, and particularly in the village where I live, Orono, they've just announced that they're opening a new autoworkers' credit union. Believe me, that outlet is needed; the downtown area has been devastated by layoffs, so I'm looking forward to this place opening.

In the speech from the throne there was some reference to the part that credit unions will play in the wellbeing of workers and communities; there was reference made to

that in the throne speech. Minister, can you fill me and my constituents in on what initiatives you are planning to introduce the effective credit unions?

**Hon Brian A. Charlton (Minister of Financial Institutions):** The reference the member refers to in the throne speech is a project we've been involved in since the fall; we're in the process of major discussions with the credit union movement in the province. We're looking seriously at complete reform of the credit union legislation in this province, first of all in an attempt to level the playing field by which the financial institutions operate in this province. The credit unions are presently restricted from providing a number of services that other financial institutions have access to. In addition to that, we want to make it a little more appropriate in terms of credit unions' ability to provide useful investment vehicles for community development investment in local communities.

**Mr Mills:** That was such a succinct answer that it leaves me very little manoeuvrability. However, how are the credit unions going to be affected by these initiatives, Mr Minister?

**Hon Mr Charlton:** As I said, the discussions we're involved in are direct discussions with the credit union movement across this province in all three of the sectors. It's our view and I think the view of the credit union movement that the changes we're looking at will be very positively welcomed by the credit union movement across the province.

#### SKILLS TRAINING

**Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming):** I have a question of the Minister of Skills Development, another question along the lines of why the words and the music of the throne speech just aren't in sync. There were some very positive words in that throne speech with regard to skills development, especially to people who are on social assistance, but that music is ringing a sour note throughout this province for those very people.

We brought to the attention of this House examples of pilot projects that our government had started in the past that you have cancelled, which is really sending those people back home to collect the welfare cheque. We believe that's wrong. We have brought to the attention of this House the municipalities that were promised training dollars two years ago, and to date they have not received those dollars.

We know that through the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board you're reorganizing skills training in Ontario, but what are you doing today for those people who are shut out of those programs and are going home and have to get that welfare cheque?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development):** Let me say in the first instance that the programs that have been referred to by the member opposite as pilot projects were indeed just that, set up by his government. They were time-limited, they were to test certain approaches to training, and they have run their course, some of them, so they are terminating. Some of them have worked and some of them have been hugely costly, and



you wouldn't want to invest those dollars on a per-job basis if you were on this side of the House.

What I want to say, however, is that we have an active program of training programs in Ontario at this time that deal, for example, with every aspect of training needs of those in technology programs, expanding apprenticeships, facilitating the re-entry of those in social services and on social assistance into training. We have addressed all those issues. We're expanding sectoral training initiatives in various sectors of training in industry, and all those have equity components to them addressed to precisely the persons the member was referring to.

**Mr Ramsay:** Those programs have been very successful. There is example after example of people who have picked themselves up and have started their own businesses or have picked up new skills and are back to work. We'd like to see the continuation of those programs.

The other day in the House the minister talked about the establishment of OTAB, and workers' say on that. What the minister said is, "If those who are unorganized out there want to have an organized voice to speak with, they know how to do it." I'm very pleased, as are all of us over here, that organized labour has a strong voice on OTAB, but today I'd like to speak to the 70% of people who won't have a voice on your new training board. Many of these people represent sectors of the economy that historically have never been organized, and many of them represent some of the work in the new industries that aren't as yet organized. These people need a voice at the table. I'd like to ask the minister today what he is going to do to ensure that those people have a fair say in the future of skills training in Ontario.

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development):** In the first instance, it's quite clear that the whole board, representing labour and business and trainers and entry or re-entry groups, will speak on behalf of all of those in Ontario in need of expanded training. That's the job of the board. Let me say that we have not told employers whom they should send to the board. We have not told trainers whom they should send to the board. We're not telling labour whom they should send to the board. They will be sending the people they can, and they'll be sending them from whatever organized sectors are out there. I cannot help it if there are masses of workers who have chosen not to be organized, for whatever reason, but they will be represented by the whole board, which will address the whole problem of training in the whole province of Ontario.

#### TOURISM INDUSTRY

**Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington):** My question today is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Yesterday he told reporters that he does not have to concern himself with the impact of his government's taxation policies on the tourism industry. I am told he said: "I'm not the Treasurer. It's not my job to think that way." Would the minister please indicate to the House what he sees his responsibilities as being?

**Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation):** My job as the Minister of Tourism and Recreation is to advocate the interests of both tourism and recreation

partners in the province. I do in fact work with the Treasurer. I work with treasury; I work with cabinet; I work with caucus. I also work with the partners out in the field to develop and help nurture tourism and recreation in the province. The Treasurer is the man who makes the decisions on taxes and those things in conjunction with cabinet and caucus and government as a whole.

**Mr Arnott:** That's a very reasonable response, but the largest tourist interest group in Ontario, Tourism Ontario Inc, thinks that high provincial taxation is one of the biggest problems it faces today. In fact, this group is so concerned that the current taxation inequities are having a detrimental impact on tourism operators that it made a pre-budget presentation to the Treasurer and Minister of Economics on this very subject.

I have counted the number of times that the words "tax" and "taxation" appear in this document. These words appear 20 times. Yet the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, I feel, does not fully understand that he must familiarize himself with the impact of taxation policies on the tourism industry. What is the minister going to do to ensure the recommendations and suggestions regarding taxation and tourism contained in the March 10 pre-budget submission by Tourism Ontario are adopted in the provincial budget?

**Hon Mr North:** As the member well knows, we have had opportunities to speak to the Treasurer and treasury about all issues concerning taxation and the tourism industry, as well as the taxes on small business, which is a large part of the tourism industry. Yesterday, as a matter of fact, I had an opportunity to speak with some people at Tourism Ontario. We had a large group together. We've had discussions about the issues. We brought those issues forward to the Treasurer. Those are decisions that will be made during the course of setting a budget for 1992-93. I'm sure that issues concerning taxation in all areas will be addressed in the budget that is forthcoming.

#### AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

**Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln):** My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Minister, Ontario farmers and food processors continue to face immense adjustment pressures as a result of the Canada-US free trade agreement. Our farmers and food processors also face uncertainty over the outcome of the GATT negotiations. Minister, would you please update the House on the status of the GATT agricultural negotiations?

**Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food):** The Ontario agriculture and food industry is very concerned with what the final outcome of the GATT negotiations will look like. Ontario continues to support the Canadian position. We support the clarification of article XI and the reduction of export subsidies. I would say that the negotiations had a target date for conclusion of Easter. As we know, Easter has passed. There is some concern in the agricultural community and in other sectors of the economy that we may not have a successful conclusion to the Uruguay round. Agriculture is the key component in the failure to reach a satisfactory conclusion of those talks.



There are efforts under way, today actually, between President Bush and European Community President Delors to try to break the deadlock between the US and the European Community. There is some optimism that there may be a breaking of that deadlock, and they can hopefully conclude the negotiations in successful rules and regulations for agriculture and food in the country.

1500

#### HEALTH INSURANCE

**Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre):** My question is to the Minister of Health. I have a copy of correspondence sent by an official in your ministry to the Ontario Medical Association with respect to the potential removal of certain medical services from OHIP coverage. Included on that list are sterilization procedures, which would include vasectomies and tubal ligations, and I point out that if those services are removed from OHIP the only birth control procedure that would be included for OHIP coverage in Ontario would be abortion. I am asking the minister if she will assure the House today that under no circumstances will vasectomies and tubal ligations be taken out of OHIP coverage, and furthermore that payment for those services will not be reduced.

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** I think the member raises legitimate concerns with respect to the specific procedures she raised, but in general, with respect to the debate around management of fee-for-service services and whether procedures like that should be delisted or whether there should be other ways that we manage the system, I would like to ask the member if she would send me a copy of the correspondence so I can refer to exactly what she is looking at.

I can assure her that there have been discussions with the Ontario Medical Association about the concept of delisting of services. However, at this point in time there have been no particular steps taken to approve any kind of list, and at this point in time I am inclined to agree with her that the issues of sensitivity she has raised around birth control—and I would say that there are some other issues and procedures on that list that also raise sensitive issues—are the kinds of things that would have to be considered before any kind of positive steps were taken at all.

**Mrs Sullivan:** I find the response of the minister shocking in that this is clearly not only an issue relating to health care; this is a women's issue. This government has spoken of and intended to project the impression that it is a proponent of women's issues. I think this kind of response is very, very damaging in terms of the confidence women can feel in terms of the Health minister being a proponent for them.

Also included on the list—and I will send the minister the list—is psychoanalysis, a course of treatment that has assisted thousands of people to live fully independent lives. Many of those people, also many of them women, have been severely traumatized by physical and sexual abuse, by incest and rape. Many have no alternative therapies available to assist them, and as I said before, many of them are women.

I also would like an assurance from the minister that under no circumstances would psychoanalysis be considered as a mere cosmetic service and removed therefore from OHIP coverage, and furthermore, that payment for those services would also not be reduced.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** I really appreciate the concern the member has and in fact I agree with her that the issues she has raised are women's issues. I myself, as a woman and as a feminist, have a great concern that our health care system is more responsive to women and not less responsive to women.

The manner in which we deliver services and the manner in which we pay for services is a matter of current debate in the province. I am not going to deny that people have been looking at options and that lists have been generated, but to take that to a step of suggesting that I personally am considering delisting of these issues at this point in time is to raise a level of hysteria and concern that is unwarranted.

The member, in question period, raises a list and wants instant answers on policy questions and matters that are under consideration. I am not going to respond in that way.

#### ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** My question is to the Minister of Health. Youth substance and drug abuse services are tragically almost non-existent in Ontario. On February 13, 1992, you assured Parents Are People Too, a Kitchener-Waterloo group of parents fighting for their children's futures, that any United States facility that would accept the \$200 per diem would not require prior approval from the ministry.

The Glenbeigh facilities in Ohio provides drug and alcohol services at the approved ministry rate, but your ministry will no longer allow children in desperate need to utilize the services provided by Glenbeigh. What is your response to the many families who now have absolutely nowhere to turn for drug and alcohol treatment for their children in spite of your assurances to the contrary?

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Anti-Drug Strategy):** I do recall meeting with these parents. They have met with my staff a couple of times as well. They certainly have a long-standing history of concern in active work and after-treatment program support work with the children in their community. It's an impressive group of people.

The actual quote the parents attribute to me, and a reporter did this morning as well, has me a bit perplexed. I can't remember the construction of the discussion around that. What I do recall, which is similar to what the member has said, is encouraging them with the facilities they've been dealing with in the United States—at that point in time I believe they were dealing with hospitals—to seek a reduction of the per diem rate those hospitals charged to the \$200. I think it's probably a fair reflection that if in fact I didn't say those words, they might have been taken the way the member attributes it.

The problem we have is that the facility the parents have been referring their children to is not a hospital. The policy change we made was that out-of-country premiums

would be paid to hospitals. I think the issue of services in Ontario is an important one. I can perhaps speak to that in response to the member's supplementary, but I want to assure her that the problem with respect to this facility's status as a hospital or not a hospital has only been brought to my attention. I can't give her an answer on that today, although I am of the current understanding that the reason payment is being denied is that the facility does not qualify as a hospital.

**Mrs Witmer:** Madam Minister, obviously it is preferable that we would have treatment facilities in the province for children under 16. Unfortunately we don't, and we don't see any improvement and we don't see any new services being brought on board. It's a sad reality that children's health and social services are in shambles. In fact, they're almost totally lacking in this province. I believe that you as minister have a responsibility to ensure that our children do have access to the drug and alcohol services they need.

It's unfortunate that we don't have the appropriate treatment facilities for these children in Ontario. Are you prepared to give your personal guarantee that your government will not continue to block treatment for these children in need and that it will start to make appropriate provisions in Ontario for these children?

**Hon Ms Lankin:** The member's concern with respect to the nature and level of services in Ontario is one the government shares and I share. You will know that we acted on recommendations from reports studying the system of therapy and treatment for addiction services to set up the drug and alcohol referral registry of treatment in Ontario. That registry is a very important tool modelled on some of the steps the previous government took with respect to cardiac care registries and others in order for us to be able to match individuals and their needs to programs that are in place.

What we have found since implementing it—it is in early days and I don't have complete reports for the member—is that we are better able to serve people and direct them to services that were being underutilized in some parts of the province.

We are also undertaking a reinvestment of dollars that have been saved from the out-of-country steps we have taken. The announcements with respect to the first set of dollars should be available soon. A review of those proposals is almost completed.

The member raises the issue with respect to children's services in particular.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Would the minister conclude her response, please.

**Hon Ms Lankin:** I assure her that I have been speaking with the Minister of Community and Social Services. The two of us have split jurisdiction for this issue. It is a matter of priority for us to look at how to augment those services.

1510

## SKILLS TRAINING

**Ms Anne Swarbrick (Scarborough West):** My question is for the Minister of Skills Development. Mr Minister, I met recently with officials of Local 46 of the plumbers and steamfitters union in my riding. The plumbers and steamfitters are concerned about our plans to restructure skills training through the creation of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. How will the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board impact on skills training and apprentice programs in Ontario's construction industry?

**Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development):** That's a good question that is often asked. The training board, of course, is intended in the first instance to enhance and expand private sector training, and therefore the construction industry trades and their various programs will be participants in all aspects of the board and its councils. Therefore, they will benefit from the new resources that will be brought to bear on training in Ontario.

I suspect the member may have a more precise concern around that general question and I'd await her second question in order to respond.

**Ms Swarbrick:** I do. The plumbers' union pointed out that in fact training in the construction sector in general is superior to training in the industrial sector. They're concerned that their training standards will suffer under a training structure that removes their autonomy and combines them with the industrial sector. I am wondering, Mr Minister, if you could comment on what you and your ministry are doing to respond to the concerns of the plumbers' union and of their colleagues throughout the construction sector.

**Hon Mr Allen:** The construction trades, of course, have a very well-developed training system, widespread apprenticeships and are thoroughly bipartite—employer-employee controlled and operated—and they are well-established and long-standing.

There seems to be some misunderstanding that by relating to OTAB they somehow will lose their autonomy. I want to say that one of the principle activities of OTAB, which they would relate to, would be what would be called the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board sectoral training council, which will deal with organized sectors such as steel trades, electronics and so on. The construction trades would be a separate sector unto themselves and they would therefore function autonomously in their own way, in their right, and would set their own standards. The provincial advisory committees that govern each of their trades would remain in place.

They might even have their powers expanded under OTAB. There are many important ways in which they would benefit from OTAB without losing any of their autonomy or any of their dynamism as a well-founded and well-established training system.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH CORRESPONDENCE

**Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand):** My question is to the Minister of Health. The minister will recall that on April 7 I raised in the House the financial difficulties facing



the board at the Willett Hospital in Paris. The minister must be aware that the record of our exchange was circulated throughout her ministry with a sarcastic and offensive covering note from a senior official in the hospital planning branch in which he states: "A banner day!!! Willett makes the House. It will close its OR (Oh my!) if it does not get funds. Where will all the bunions go?"

Further, since this memo was circulated to 54 of the minister's officials, I demanded this minister undertake to correct the record and apologize to the patients, physicians and board at the Willett Hospital. The minister promised encouragement and assistance on April 7 to the Willett Hospital board. Obviously she has neglected to pass down this promise to her officials.

My question to the minister is this: Is it acceptable to this minister to have her responses in the House circulated throughout her ministry with sarcastic and offensive comments made by her officials?

**Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health):** I truly appreciate the member drawing this to my attention. In fact, it hadn't been brought to my attention through any other source and I appreciate the opportunity to learn of this. Let me answer you very directly. No, I don't find that acceptable at all. I believe I have done a very effective job—at least I thought I had done a very effective job—of passing on throughout the ministry my commitment to try to communicate openly, directly, honestly and respectfully with the health partners out in the community.

The member demanded—he could have asked, but he demanded—an apology to the people of his community, the patients and the health care providers who use that institution. I very certainly will offer that apology here at this point in time and I will also take steps to ensure that the individual who may have circulated that, if that individual is made known to me, will also offer an apology to the people of his community.

## PETITIONS

### FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I have been asked by Linda Field of Englehart to present a petition to this House. She wanted me to read it verbatim into the record, and I will, because it is short:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the French Language Services Act, 1986, Bill 8, continues to elevate tensions and misunderstandings over language issues throughout the province, not only at the provincial but also at municipal levels; and

"Whereas the current government disputes its self-serving select committee and intends to encourage increased use of French in the courts, schools and other provincial services to ensure that the French Language Services Act is working well to the best of their concentrated efforts; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of government to the taxpayer are being forced even higher due to the duplication of departments, translations etc to comply not only with

the written but also with the unwritten intent of the French Language Services Act; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of education to the taxpayers are being forced even higher due to the demands of yet another board of education—French language school board,

"We, the undersigned, request that the French Language Services Act be repealed and its artificial structures dismantled immediately, and English be declared as the official language of Ontario in governments, its institutions and services."

It is signed by 28 people and I am presenting that on behalf of Linda Field of Englehart.

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** I rise to submit a petition that is signed by 2,386 residents of Ontario, many of whom are from the riding of Lanark-Renfrew:

"We, the undersigned, do hereby urge our elected members of the Ontario Legislature to repeal the French Language Services Act of Ontario, Bill 8.

"Whereas this act was passed with only 44% of our MPPs present, with no recorded vote, and was discussed and passed almost entirely in French for less than 5% of the population, we deem this to be undemocratic procedure; and

"Whereas we are told that this act will not affect municipalities, why then was a costly 45-page task force report on municipal services in French prepared by francophones and sent to all municipalities for the future implementation of this act; and

"Whereas the designated areas in the act indicate 10% or a 5,000 francophone population as the criteria for providing French-language services, eg, Toronto, with over 2.6 million people, to be included as a designated area should have 260,000 francophones, but 5,000 actually makes it eligible; and

"Whereas billions of dollars spent on legislated bilingualism should be spent on schools, health, social and municipal services; and

"Whereas, as a result of the implementation of this act, thousands of careers have been affected, many cut short by layoffs, demotions and loss of promotions, this is serious discrimination,

"Therefore, be it resolved that the French Language Services Act of Ontario be repealed and our provincial government continue, as it has in the past, to accept and promote the use of English as the official language of communication with its citizens of each ethnic, cultural and language group, with all levels of government."

### LABOUR LEGISLATION

**Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North):** I have a number of petitions that have been signed by 76 Ontario residents, representing both the management and employees of a number of Ontario companies including William Day Construction, MBS Steel, Drainstar Contracting, Palmex Interior Systems and Advance Cutting and Coring. They read:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the effect that

amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

1520

## REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Mr Runciman from the standing committee on government agencies presented the committee's first report.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** Pursuant to standing order 104(g)(11), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### FINANCIAL CONSUMERS ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 SUR LES CONSOMMATEURS DE PRODUITS FINANCIERS

Mr Chiarelli moved first reading of Bill 13, An Act to provide for the Protection of Financial Consumers / Loi visant à assurer la protection des consommateurs de produits financiers.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West):** This is a reintroduction of Bill 3, which I introduced in the last session. The purpose of the bill is to provide greater protection for consumers who receive advice from financial planners or who invest in certain financial products offered by or through financial planners, agents and suppliers. The bill provides a stronger and more effective control over the activities of mortgage brokers, something this government continues to delay.

## MOTIONS

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Mr Cooke moved resolution 4:

That the standing committee on public accounts consider the matter of the appointment of the Provincial Auditor and that the committee report to the House its recommended candidate for appointment as the Provincial Auditor on or before June 8, 1992.

Motion agreed to.

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr Cooke moved resolution 5:

That notwithstanding any standing order or previous order of the House, the following changes be made to the order for precedence for private members' public business:

Ballot item 2, Mr Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt); ballot item 5, Mr McGuinty; ballot item 8, Mr Brown; ballot item 11, Mr Henderson; ballot item 14, Mrs Caplan; ballot item 17, Mr Bradley; ballot item 20, Mr O'Neil (Quinte); ballot item 23, Mrs McLeod; ballot item 26, Mrs O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau); ballot item 29, Mr Ramsay; ballot item 32, Mr Elston; ballot item 35, Mr Conway; ballot item 38, Mr Cordiano; ballot item 41, Mr Poirier; ballot item 44, Mr Curling; ballot item 47, Mr McClelland; ballot item 50, Mr Grandmaitre; ballot item 56, Ms Poole;

ballot item 59, Mr Beer; ballot item 62, Mr Miclash; ballot item 64, Mr Chiarelli; ballot item 66, Mrs Sullivan; ballot item 68, Mr Scott; ballot item 70, Mrs Fawcett; ballot item 72, Mr Cleary; ballot item 74, Mr Offer; ballot item 76, Mr Callahan; ballot item 80, Mr Mancini; ballot item 82, Mr Sola; ballot item 84, Mr Ruprecht; ballot item 86, Mr Daigeler; ballot item 88, Mr Mahoney; ballot item 90, Mr Sorbara; ballot item 92, Mr Morin.

Motion agreed to.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### OPPOSITION DAY

#### POLICE SERVICES

Mr Runciman moved opposition day motion 1:

That, in the opinion of this House, since this government has assumed office, there has been a significant increase in crime, particularly violent crimes and crimes against women and children; this government has demonstrated various misuses of police resources; this government has politicized police services boards; this government has failed to provide a bill of rights for victims of crime; this government has not provided adequate support for law enforcement agencies on the streets and in the courts; this government has undermined the morale of police forces in Ontario through political pressure and fiscal strangulation; this government has taken no action to address the serious shortage of Ontario Provincial Police officers and this shortage has left numerous communities unprotected; this government has continued the pattern of neglect and low prioritization of Ontario's law and order concerns established by recent Liberal governments; therefore, this House calls upon the government to introduce specific measures to resolve these concerns so the citizens of Ontario and those who visit our communities can walk our streets safely and without fear.

**Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I draw to your attention that I don't think that sort of thing is allowed in the chamber, that box. I ask that it be removed if it's not allowed.

**The Speaker (Hon David Warner):** I assume the member is referring to the large box that is in the chamber. We do discourage having large objects in the chamber. I wonder if the member could perhaps move it to the side or place it somewhere else after he's had it on display for a little bit. Having moved the motion, the member may begin his speech.

**Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville):** This is not a display, as some members suggested; this is the packaged-up results of an advertising campaign by the Ontario Provincial Police Association, 13,000 responses expressing concerns of citizens right across this province about this government's lack of appropriate support for the Ontario Provincial Police in this province.

I would like to have a page—I suspect one or two might be necessary—to take this to the Solicitor General, please. We trust the Solicitor General will ensure these coupons are delivered to the Premier. They're addressed to



the Premier, but regrettably he isn't present for this debate today.

We have very limited time. We could, in our caucus in any event, talk about this subject at length, because we certainly have a great many concerns in regard to law and order issues in this province and the way in which the NDP government is dealing with those very legitimate concerns of everyday people. We see incidents like the abduction of a young lady in St Catharines recently, case after case of very significant crimes occurring and, in our view, many of these are not being addressed in an adequate fashion.

The coupons are one expression of those concerns in respect to the OPP shortages. Many areas in this province are simply not adequately protected during many hours of the day. Restrictions placed upon them by this current government and the past Liberal government and to some extent the previous Conservative government have created extreme difficulties in this province for the OPP and are creating what we have described and what the police association has described as a policing crisis, especially in many parts of rural Ontario.

I was at a function last night, an organizational reception of a group called ProAction. I guess the driving force is John Bitov, a well-known businessman in Metropolitan Toronto, supported by many prominent citizens, such as Lincoln Alexander, the former Lieutenant Governor, Senator Trevor Eyton and others who are very concerned about all the negative media directed towards policemen and policewomen in this province, who have formed this foundation to support police involvement in community-based programming, essentially in the Metro Toronto area, but we hope this is going to spread. What the ProAction Foundation is hoping to accomplish is effectively to unsilence the silent majority.

One of the people who spoke at the event last night was the president of Brights Wines, who three weeks ago had been at a banking machine, had withdrawn some money from a banking machine, and as he was leaving he was attacked by two young offenders, who stabbed him several times in the chest and took off with his funds. The gentleman survived, simply because he was able to get to a car phone, dial 911 and get immediate assistance from police and ambulance authorities. I think he was indicating the way society in Ontario is changing and has changed, and not for the better, in the last number of years.

This government and its predecessor government have effectively failed to address those growing concerns. In fact, they've taken an opposite tack, in many instances having a very negative impact on policing and police morale right across this province.

When you take a look at some statistics—I don't want to spend a lot of time on this, but in 1985, the last year of a Conservative government, the provincial share of municipal policing costs in this province was over 18%. In the NDP budget of last year it was slightly under 12%, a 6% drop in the assistance provided by the province to municipal policing costs.

On the other side of that ledger, if we can just take a look at two yearly statistics, 1990 and 1991, crime statis-

tics in Ontario, we've seen homicides increase by over 18%, attempted murder by 163%, sexual offences—in just one year, mind you, from 1990 to 1991—up 17.5% and robberies up 44.3%. In Metro Toronto, total violent crime has increased close to 10%, and in every category of offence. Whether it is sexual assault, abduction, attempted homicide or homicide, they have all increased—homicides by close to 38%; a record number of homicides in Metro Toronto last year.

1530

When you look at the provincial policing costs right now, in 1991 the OPP budget as a percentage of total provincial expenditures was less than 1%. In a survey I did some months ago of municipal officials across this province, the majority indicated that they felt that in terms of funding from the province, law and order—policing—should rank number two or three in the order of priorities of this government. I don't know what we could look at that would rank much lower than less than 1% of total expenditures going to the OPP.

We are not talking about new money going into policing. The minister may get up later and talk about the Conservatives being contradictory. We're not talking about new money; we're talking about allocation of resources. We believe it can be done. A lot more money should be going into policing in this province. It doesn't have to mean new money and it doesn't have to mean additional taxes to the people of this province.

We want to take a look at a couple of things; for example, the misuse of police resources. The Ontario Provincial Police Association brought this up. Taking a look at the Ministry of the Solicitor General over the past number of years—this goes over a couple of governments—there has been an increase in the ministry of close to 67%; when you take new people, new bodies, bureaucrats going into the Ministry of the Solicitor General, there has been an increase of 67%. When we look at the uniformed force of the OPP, there has been a very modest increase over that same period of 9%. The people out there doing the real policing saw an increase of 9% while the bureaucracy grew at an astounding rate of 67%. Something's very wrong when we talk about the misuse of police resources.

We can point to the fact of using 30 OPP officers from various units across this province to protect the NDP budget. That's another misuse. For the last Conservative budget we had eight OPP officers. The Liberals got up a couple of weeks ago and complained about this. They had 28 OPP officers to protect the the last Liberal budget, and they get up and complain about the NDP having 30. Birds of a feather.

We can take a look at the Mary Hogan memo. The Deputy Attorney General's lawyer was sending a memo to the Attorney General outlining all the disagreements and the bitter relationship between the Attorney General and his deputy. That memo leaked to the media. This NDP government called in the police force to investigate a leaked memo from a lawyer to the deputy. They're more interested in nailing political enemies than carrying out real, effective policing.



We talked about a whistle-blowing law when this party got into government. "We're going to bring in a whistle-blowing law to protect people who tell the truth." Well, here's someone telling the truth—it was admitted—and they take two homicide detectives, two of the finest men in blue, out of the Metro force to investigate this kind of leak. Shameful.

Then we take a look at the raid on Liberal Party offices. Again, another effort to intimidate the bureaucracy and anyone who may try to tell what is going on within the confines of this government. A terrible misuse of police resources, simply terrible.

We can talk about the politicization of police services boards. We can look at Mary Nnolim, the Peel region appointee who said before her appointment was finalized, "I believe that all police lie on the witness stand." I brought that forward and this minister would not revoke that appointment, would not even conduct an investigation. The chief of police in Peel said this minister's action does nothing but create considerable loss of morale within Peel region when you have a member of the board, appointed by this government, saying she believes all police lie on the witness stand.

**Interjection:** Unbelievable.

**Mr Runciman:** Unbelievable indeed. At least the Ontario Police Commission has taken it upon itself to investigate this. The government wouldn't do it. They wouldn't take a look at their own appointee. At least the police commission is now taking a look at it.

We have to take a look at other people being appointed to police services boards. We're getting people from a variety of labour unions—nothing wrong with that—we're getting a lot of social activists, but that's what we're getting. We're not getting any business people, people who know how to manage a budget. We're simply getting people who have been in the NDP camp. We're not getting a broad spectrum of appointees. We're all going to suffer for it; all municipalities across this province are going to suffer for it.

I want to talk about the most infamous appointee, and this individual was appointed by the Liberal government: Miss Susan Eng. She's been appointed as the chair of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board by the NDP government in a controversial back-door reappointment that the Premier tried to keep quiet. No one in this House had an opportunity to even say anything about that appointment before it went through cabinet. This is someone who brings people like Dudley Laws into a police board meeting, an individual with a number of police charges, and tries to embarrass the chief of police of Metro Toronto. He had to leave that meeting. She's done that on numerous occasions. She deals through the media. She's a media hound. She's a publicity hound. She has no right to be serving as chair of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board; she should not be there. But this is the sort of individual they use in their social experiments with police services boards right across this province. We're all going to pay for it.

Last night I was watching CITY-TV for a few moments. They had a segment on policing in Metro Toronto, and they had Susan Eng on as a guest. One of the things she said was that during her years on the Metro services board, including her time as chair, she has not been in a police squad car. She has not gone on a tour with an officer on the beat. She doesn't have a clue about the kinds of problems these people are facing, and here she's serving as chair. She has the unmitigated gall to say, "I'll get around to it some time, but I'm the person who's going to be making decisions affecting their lives," and affecting the lives of the residents of Metro Toronto who depend upon policemen and policewomen to protect them in their neighbourhoods and communities. That's the sort of person we're getting.

They also talked about the frustration of police officers with the political interference from the board and from the provincial government, policemen talking about how they have to be so politically correct. They can't identify a potential culprit as a black male or as an Asian male. They have to say "a non-white male" or they're going to be up on the carpet. They can't identify them because they have to be politically correct. What we're doing is handicapping our police officers and not allowing them to do an appropriate job.

Another area is a bill of rights for victims of crime. My colleague the member for Burlington South has for over three years been trying to have a victims' rights bill. He's introduced it, tried to have it passed by both the Liberal and NDP governments, and all they've done is stonewall him. Ontario is the only provincial jurisdiction in Canada which does not have a crime victims' bill of rights. Despite this fact, the member for Burlington South's bill has been successively blocked by both Liberal and NDP governments. I want to applaud the efforts of the member for Burlington South on behalf of victims of crime in Ontario. I'm calling on the Premier and the Attorney General to stop sitting on their hands and to bring in the member for Burlington South's crime victims' bill of rights and make sure it passes.

We talk about the members across the room in the white ribbon campaign to commemorate violence against women by men. On that day I refused to wear that white ribbon because this place reeked of hypocrisy. As Toronto Sun columnist Lorrie Goldstein said in a column, "Some things you cheapen with a ribbon." I'd like to quote an additional excerpt from that column.

"I will not be wearing a white ribbon because I am, frankly, suspicious of the real agenda of many of those who will and who want me to. Let me explain why. I am suspicious because I venture to say many of those people who will be so proudly wearing their little ribbons are the same self-proclaimed sensitive, liberal, leftist, politically correct types who for years have fought against any and all attempts to make the justice system tougher on criminals.

"What they seem to want is a system that makes everyone a criminal or a suspected criminal or a potential criminal and that makes everyone but them wallow in perpetual guilt. In fact, their real agenda seems to be a desire to frighten the law-abiding majority into not daring to venture



any opinion on issues as diverse as crime, immigration, welfare, multiculturalism and the like by declaring anyone who disagrees with their so-called progressive views racist or sexist.

"These are the sorts of people who have ridiculed the Toronto Sun for years when it stood virtually alone among the major Canadian media in calling for the restoration of capital punishment, for tougher sentencing of criminals, for adequate resources for the police, for tougher bail and parole conditions and for more attention to be paid to the rights of the victims of crime rather than the criminals." Amen.

1540

I talked about pepper sprays earlier today, where this minister is not willing to put a tool in the hands of police that would give them the ability to knock down a 250-pound aggressor. This has been proven in field tests. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has carried out two major tests and knocked down a 250-pound aggressor. They don't have to resort to a gun. We have tear gas, which is much more harmful than pepper sprays, used in the province and widespread across Canada. He's not prepared to because he thinks it's going to be too politically dicey; it may jeopardize his position. I understand that, given the Premier's reaction today. When I mentioned pepper sprays and the Liberals not doing anything about it when they had the recommendation, he said, "That's understandable." I said there are anti-police string-pullers in the Premier's office and he confirmed it. We've known it for years, but he confirmed it today.

We can take a look at Constable Brian Rapson, who was discharged at a preliminary inquiry on a charge of attempted murder. What happened? Under pressure from vocal minority groups the Attorney General came forward with a preferred indictment and political pressure from the Dudley Laws of the world, and we had that man and his family put through all that stress, all that agony and all that pain simply because of this Attorney General and the NDP government's political agenda.

A great many of these controversies revolve around the question of race and the predictable charges of police racism by Mr Laws and other of his ilk as well as frequent fuel from the Toronto Star. No doubt there are police officers who are racist, just as there are racists in all professions. In cases where officers maltreat visible minorities, they should be disciplined just as they should be if they maltreat any citizen. If the offence is serious, the officer in question should be suspended or fired. In cases where police unnecessarily shoot suspects, they should be charged, but let's not implicate all police officers and paint them all with the same brush.

It's really disgusting that at the very time that the police are being faced with increased levels of crimes such as assaults, drug use, drug-related crimes and street gangs, this is the time the government is turning its back on the police.

As we look into the 1990s we can expect turbulent change in this province. With a growing and changing population, rapidly expanding cities and considerable economic displacement, the pressures on the government will

be great. One question we must ask is, how safe will our province be? With increased urbanization more and more Ontarians will wonder, how safe will our cities be?

I have given just some examples, out of a file full of them, to tell this House that the NDP government is doing its best to thwart the efforts of our police forces to maintain the high degree of safety—which is not only a custom in our province; it's taken as a right. Ordinary citizens, like those sending in the OPP coupons, must continue to speak up on behalf of the police, or the NDP, along with its Liberal cronies and various self-styled organizations that claim to speak for large segments of society, will irreparably damage police morale, severely handicap their ability to fight crime and ultimately damage public safety.

**Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General):** As all present in this chamber are aware, it's a basic right of people in this province of ours to be guaranteed public safety. It is a responsibility of this government to ensure that this very right is in fact protected. Our government is fully committed to doing everything necessary to realize that goal.

We take the health and wellbeing of the people of this province very seriously. I am concerned, however, when the opposition boils public safety down to a question of crime statistics. I think it is very problematic when that is done. Statistics really are not as simple as they often appear.

First, the opposition states that crime statistics have gone way up since the government took power. Quite frankly, this is not true. There has been no sudden or dramatic increase in the rate of crime since this government took power. More important, however, is that crime statistics do not measure the absolute amount of crime that occurs. Statistics simply measure crimes reported to the police.

As society attempts to eradicate crime, education and awareness of the effects of crime raise the visibility of these very crimes. Let me give you an example. Wife assault didn't start yesterday. Sexual assault did not begin yesterday. These crimes have been with us for a very long time. Through our efforts to eradicate crime, we must sometimes realize, as painful as that realization sometimes is, the extent of the problem and enhance our efforts to serve the victims of crime both before and after the fact.

Increased awareness of the incidence and impact of sexual assault, improvements in the way law enforcement agencies deal with it and the increased availability of support services mean that more women who experience sexual assault will have the courage to come forward and report it to police. This is also true of other crimes. The more aware people become, the more likely they are to report that crime to us.

The fact that there are newspaper reports of increases in crime may also lead people to report those incidents. Crime rates will also go up if enforcement efforts shift. Enforcement can increase because there are simply more police officers to witness these crimes or because the enforcement policies of police forces may, and often do, change.

In the area of wife assault, police services have been directed to lay charges if there are reasonable grounds to believe an offence has occurred, rather than if the wife wants to lay charges, which in the past was rare. Statistics



would undoubtedly show a dramatic increase in this violent crime when in fact what has increased is the number of charges that have been laid. This point that crime statistics are open to various interpretations is a very important one.

Another important point is that the causes of crime are widespread. The problem of street crime is not simply a law and order problem. The causes of street crime are wider societal problems like the desensitization of our youth to violence, poverty and homelessness, and the terrible effects of this difficult recession that we all face.

Our government is trying to deal with some of these root causes of crime, but I ask you to remember that law enforcement alone will not solve the problem of crime. That law enforcement can't do this is seen in the fact that we have consistently given budget increases above the level of inflation to police services and still the crime problem has not disappeared. We must take a more holistic and comprehensive approach in providing public safety to all the people of Ontario. We must look at how we are providing police services to the people of Ontario.

Research has shown that a traditional model of policing has had a rather limited effect on crime. We do not believe any longer that simply adding more police officers is in itself the single solution. New ideas like community participation, problem-oriented policing and greater emphasis on crime prevention are the wave of the future. This is the focus of community policing. It is one of the cornerstones of our recently passed Police Services Act. One of the principles of this act is the need for cooperation between the providers of police services and the very communities they serve. Community policing is a rather innovative approach to policing designed to reduce crime, improve officer safety, enhance community relations and make police services more a part of the community they serve and protect.

1550

This emphasis on the community is found to be working in our police services boards as well. They reflect the new spirit of community policing, which is community involvement in the shaping of the very police policies that are used to serve that same public.

The boards have, as well, many responsibilities beyond that. They have the establishment of the employment equity plans which are being undertaken right now, the hearing of disciplinary appeals, the establishment of police budgets, and perhaps most important, determining local policing issues and priorities in consultation with their own chief of police.

As members of the community, the board members ensure that the needs and the concerns of the entire community are reflected in policing policies. Unlike practices in the past, this government has opened up the appointment process for police services boards.

The members opposite have discussed the politicization of police services boards and how that somehow is impacting negatively on police service. What they call politicization is merely this government's more open approach, which may involve appointing people who in the past were shut out of the process: women, persons with

disabilities, visible minorities and people who believe in two main thrusts of the legislation that governs policing in this province—community policing and employment equity.

I would like to question their definition of "politicization." They are looking back, quite frankly, to what are described by many as the good old days when the good old boys were appointed to every agency, board and commission throughout this entire province. We've opened up that process, we've advertised in local papers, we've created manuals listing all appointments so the public can be aware of them. We have sought input of local municipal officials and local members.

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin):** I would appreciate it if you would stop heckling so I could hear better.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** We review all the appointments by a legislative committee, of which the member opposite, who has sponsored the motion for today, is the Chair.

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I know the Solicitor General would not like to mislead the House at all. I know you wouldn't do that. But we see here that it was never advertised: the patronage appointment of Mel Swart's daughter. Don't tell me they are always advertised. Many of the posts were never advertised. I know you would like to correct that.

**The Deputy Speaker:** This is not a point of order.

**Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: He is suggesting it is scrutinized by a legislative committee that a majority of the members of the government sit on. There is no scrutiny and they have not turned down a single appointment by order in council yet.

**The Deputy Speaker:** This is not a point of order.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for ruling on those inopportune and inappropriate interjections.

I would also like to say, quite frankly, that I am very proud of the appointments we have made to date. Our appointments will ensure the best spirit of community policing, that police services are sensitive to the communities which they serve. We are working to produce police services that more accurately reflect their communities, and I believe this important step not only will contribute to a better and more productive relationship between police and community, but it will also have a very positive impact on the rate of criminal activity, of such concern to members opposite.

The commitment to community policing means a commitment to eradicating types of crimes that may have slipped through the cracks previously, such as violence against women. My colleague from Niagara Falls will speak eloquently a little later on the things our government has done on an action-oriented basis in this area. This government is committed to preventing violence against women.

The member opposite also mentions the provision of victim services. He has said the government really hasn't done much in that regard. I want to tell you, and I am pleased to reinforce this, that we have not doubled funding;



we have tripled funding to the sexual assault initiative that assists victims of sexual assault. We are turning our very successful victim assistance and referral services in Kingston, Brantford and Sault Ste Marie into regional centres so they can reach out and provide a much broader service, and we are continuing the Toronto program as well. It is simply not true to say the government has not been acting in this area.

The motion that was sponsored also states that the government does not support policing. In the one sense, it's a ridiculous statement. It is not one that is really worthy of a response, but of course I must respond, because all of us who are elected here to this government and all sides of the House want nothing other than the highest possible public safety for all the people we represent and who in fact are our neighbours.

My colleague the member for Durham East will expand on all the things this government has done to support policing, but I'd like to take a moment to say a few words about that myself.

The government is in the process of re-evaluating how all government services are being delivered so that it can deliver them better and with a large degree of fiscal responsibility. Part of this process is coming up with innovative ideas to make services more responsive and more cost-effective. It is those who are able to come up with these new ideas whom we must support. Those who are simply looking back to the past really do not realize they are preventing new and innovative methods of policing from emerging. They want to keep us back in the past. We see from the past that those techniques have not prevented crime. We've got to look forward. We have to support policing, and the methods we are adopting will, I think, prove to be really welcomed and a step forward in this province. We are trying to adapt policing to a modern reality rather than keeping old methods that have not proven to eradicate crime.

I think a perfect example of this is our very own Ontario Provincial Police. With the assistance of this government, the OPP is a force that is a model for forces all across this country, if not the world. The OPP was one of the first forces in this province to implement community policing, and I want to tell you that it's been very successful. The OPP has as well been undergoing a comprehensive re-evaluation of its service delivery. We are addressing these issues in cooperation with the OPP and the Ontario Provincial Police Association.

In addition, we are improving our levels of service by implementing community policing, continuing the implementation of modern technology systems and supporting the creation of a strategic planning committee of the OPP to constantly re-evaluate that service delivery.

I must say I am somewhat disturbed by the things the member said, as if he was implying that the OPP is not doing its job. I am very proud of the members of the Ontario Provincial Police and the excellent job the men and women of that force are doing on behalf of us all. In fact, I think most people in this province would agree with me.

The member for Leeds-Grenville has shown us his makeshift survey-in-a-box of municipal elected officials and others who have signed these coupons. I would rather put my faith in a scientifically conducted poll by the Gallup organization that found that 87% of the people of Ontario were satisfied with the performance of the police and the police services in this province, so much so that it eclipsed the national average of acceptance, which was only 78%. I want to say as well that if 13,000 coupons are supposed to be some expression of a massive degree of discontent among over nine million people here in Ontario from over 800 municipalities, I suggest that while we are pleased to receive those expressions of concern, this survey by Gallup proved that there is a large body of this province who are well satisfied and have faith in their policing services.

I must say, though, in all fairness, that policing is going through a period of change. Of course, all government services and even private industry in this recession are going through a period of restructuring, and when restructuring occurs, difficulties can arise.

1600

Interjections.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. The member for Downsview, order, please. I would ask again that you refrain from heckling. The procedures are very clear: 20(b) prevents you from heckling, so I ask you not to heckle.

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** As I was saying, when at any time changes occur, they are always difficult times. We know that from experience. There will always be those who will disagree with restructuring, not only outside, but those inside the organization as well. There are those who don't want policing to change, but it's a more modern society, it's a multicultural society, it's one where policing must change.

We're taking steps to accomplish and react to those present-day realities. This government has had the courage to take on the important challenge of improving policing by way of the police services in Ontario. As I said, we're looking for innovative and fiscally responsible solutions and we're in the process of finding, developing and implementing those to everyone's benefit.

But the way to find them is not through this kind of confrontation, but really it is through partnerships: partnerships between the community and the police, partnerships between the police and the government and partnerships between the government and the community. Only working together can we find solutions that will solve the very difficult problems all of us face. We can do that, and hopefully we can do that in ways we will all be satisfied with.

The opposition motion we are discussing today ends with the statement "so the citizens of Ontario and those who visit our communities can walk our streets safely and without fear." I'd like to say that we live in one of the safest countries in the world, we have one of the safest provinces in the world and Toronto, for a city its size, is one of the safest cities anywhere in the world.

The Police Services Act I think is a progressive piece of legislation. We need positive voices; we don't need



those that instil fear in the minds of people. They're not hurting the criminals when they do that; they are hurting law-abiding citizens. We have to do something of a positive nature. We have to come together in the various aspects I've commented upon, and I think in that way we will in fact produce an even greater and more enhanced policing service for the protection of all citizens, which we have come to enjoy and want well and long into the future in this province.

**Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South):** I'm going to take a little different approach here. On the question of safety in our province and in our cities, I'd like to take a look at that in comparison to, say, 10 years ago. There's no question that we are fast becoming like the US cities. We seem to look at the US and pick up all its bad habits, and we don't bother to look at how those habits or how those situations arose and try to anticipate them and overcome them. I often say in this House that every member of the House should have a copy of *Bonfire of the Vanities* so you could see what happened in the south Bronx, for a lot of the reasons—neglect—that have been going on in this Legislature in terms of policing, in terms of the justice system, in terms of speeding up the process, in terms of providing the necessary essentials to ensure that our society maintains its civility.

I find it passing strange, first of all, that in a democratic society the Attorney General or the Solicitor General is even a member of the cabinet. I know that one will never fly, because traditionally that has always been the case, but in countries like Ireland and others that is not the case. The reason I suggest that should not be the case is that the Attorney General and the Solicitor General are the guardians of the rule of law, and once they're in cabinet they become part of the political process and part of the political partisanship. They have to fight for every dollar they get. They make decisions that impact significantly on this province and this country, so those people should not really be down in the dust playing with the other politicians; they should in fact be out there making decisions that are good to retain the civility of this province.

If you look at the question of why we're having problems on our streets, we opened up institutions throughout this province in what was looked upon as being a very civilized and a very far-reaching approach to dealing with people who were suffering from mental disorders and so on. But having opened up those institutions, what did we do to help these people? They wander the streets, without help, very often without housing, without income, without food, and we expect to maintain a civil society? I suggest that's not possible. You have to provide the backup for these people, these unfortunate people who are ill, not simply open up the doors of the institutions and say, "You're free to go out and freeze over a subway corridor, in the alleyway" or whatever.

You have people who are schizophrenics. The Mental Health Act was amended in this Legislature, and I am ashamed at the way it was amended. Schizophrenics have absolutely no help. Their loved ones can't assist them, because they're not required to take their medication. Schizophrenics can be very dangerous to others and to

themselves. What do we do for them? What does this Legislature do for them? What do the laws of the province of Ontario do for them? Zilcho.

What about the question of young people in this province?

**Mr Curling:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think it is awful that we are debating such an important issue and we don't even have a quorum in the House.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1607

**The Deputy Speaker:** A quorum is now present. The member for Brampton South, you have the floor.

**Mr Callahan:** I want to thank my colleague for drawing the House's attention to the fact that the government doesn't consider this an important enough issue to maintain the quorum which is its responsibility. I find it passing strange that all these people who are cabinet ministers, parliamentary assistants and chairs of committees, who receive extra compensation out of that massive bag of government money, do not have enough interest in this issue to be in the House. I suggest, Mr Speaker, that going on with—

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I do not wish to interject, but in fairness, when the member opposite rises on a point of order of quorum and makes the allegations he did, he might view his own side of the bench and see that the Liberal Party has only three members of this House present during this important debate.

**Mr Callahan:** It's not a point of order. I would like to get on with the issues of what is at the root cause of—

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member brought to the attention of the House the many extra salaries and benefits. It should be brought to everyone's attention that the member also receives an extra benefit as a Chair.

**The Deputy Speaker:** This is not a point of order.

**Mr Callahan:** I want to bring the member for Durham West up to speed. I no longer chair a committee, so he's about a year behind.

I'd like to get back to the issue, though, and put aside this partisan pettiness and suggest, along the lines of what I was trying to say, that you have let all these poor souls out of institutions. You've not provided the backup; you amended the Mental Health Act and created problems for families of schizophrenics and people with other mental disorders. You don't provide the housing for them. They wander the streets of this fine city of Toronto and probably the streets of the province.

The OHIP scheme: The OHIP fee schedule doesn't cover the cost of a psychological examination for a young boy or girl suffering from a learning disability, the invisible disability. You people in the government and I guess all of us as legislators can always recognize a disability that is visible—someone in a wheel chair, someone who is blind, someone who is deaf—but the invisible disability, a learning disability, is not even funded. You can't go to a psychologist and receive the funds for going to the psychologist to get that very important determination of



whether that young boy or girl has a learning disability and therefore whether there should be accommodation in the school system or whatever other system for them.

Over the years I practised in the courts, I wish I had a nickel for every time in a pre-sentence report addressing the matter of sentence—it went something like this: “He or she had a learning disability. It went undiagnosed. They were pushed through the school system”—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The orders of the day were very clear. The topic is very clear, and I’m afraid you’re not debating it. I would ask you to debate it.

**Mr Callahan:** Mr Speaker, I’m getting around to it. I’m trying to show the final element of the resolution, that the government “introduce specific measures to resolve these concerns so the citizens of Ontario and those who visit our communities can walk our streets safely and without fear.” I suggest to you, with the greatest of respect, that I’m doing that. If these people, in addressing the court on sentence, are winding up in our correctional facilities or winding up in anti-social activities because of the inability to get funding from the government for a psychological report, then I suggest that’s part of this entire issue as to why our streets are not safe, why crime is increasing.

The question of literacy: In my own riding, I think it was 45,000 people five years ago who were illiterate. That is partially, I would suggest, as a result of the question of the learning disabled as well as the education system. We’re not providing these young people with the tools to make it in society. So what do they do when they can’t make it in society? They become anti-social, they resort to crime. I suggest that’s not proper.

It doesn’t matter how many police officers you have. You could have a police officer for every 10 people in the province and I suggest you would have no different situation. You’ve got to attack the roots of why our streets are unsafe. You have to attack the reasons behind it. I suggest that’s not being done.

Look at the backlog in the courts, the slow process of the courts. Police officers must be totally frustrated when they see a criminal, a person who has a record, and perhaps is innocent until proven guilty but has a long record, waiting a year or two years or whatever for a trial. It’s cheaper by the dozen. If you’re waiting that long or you’re going to get an adjournment that long, you may as well go out and knock off a few more, because you’re going to get the same sentence if it’s one or 10.

The issue of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the very people who should be rewarded for being attacked as a victim—you’ve done nothing about the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. In fact, I read in an article recently in the newspaper the fact that they can’t hand out any more money. The cupboard is bare. That’s a heck of a way to deal with people who are more and more, increasingly in this day and age, becoming victims of crime.

You’re rushing headlong into the introduction of casinos by a secret cabinet decision, not putting it through the Legislature where we can debate it, or even taking a plebiscite of the people of Ontario. You’re going to create casin-

os, which I suggest are going to cause more problems for the police, are going to cause more problems for our society, make our streets unsafe even more than they are now.

In fact, I’m told there was a famous quote by one of the owners of a casino in Atlantic City that Atlantic City is a Taj Mahal in a war zone. You don’t dare walk out of the casino and down the boardwalk lest you be attacked. Is this what we’re creating for our children and for our society here in Ontario? You haven’t even asked the people. I understand you’re going to have six of them. Are you going to have police officers to look after the fallout from that: the prostitution, the loan sharking, drug-related problems and a number of other things?

Finally, as my time is limited, I just want to address very quickly one final item: the question of drug and alcohol abuse. Some 80% of your crime could be eliminated if you would take a real run at trying to solve the problem or provide the facilities to assist people who have drug and alcohol problems. I suggest that with the exception of a task force, which accomplished nothing, there really has not been a great deal done. The standing committee on public accounts was trying to look into the issue. I don’t know where that’s going now—I no longer chair it—but I suggest to you that’s at the very root cause. It’s not a question of more policemen.

You will also make safe the lives of those police officers who have to face a person who’s under the influence of drugs or is drunk, in terms of the violence that person might inflict, not just on the average, everyday citizen but on the police officers; the violent crime that occurs in homes because of drinking and drug abuse, domestic disputes, which are very dangerous for our police officers.

So I suggest you don’t sit back there on your laurels. I don’t think any member of this Legislature has the ability to do that, to be able to sit back, pat himself or herself on the back and say, “We’ve done it.” You haven’t done it. Until the members of this Legislature take their responsibility to heart, and you people as the government who control the purse-strings and all the rest of it, we’re going to continue to have those problems on our streets.

**Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale):** It’s a pleasure for me to rise today to speak about such an important motion, because a major theme noticeably absent from the throne speech was any mention at all of the government’s plans for the justice system in Ontario and no mention of its plans in so far as the policing and safety of our neighbourhoods are concerned.

I can tell you that in my riding of Willowdale, the concern of the people who live in my riding is not just taxes, because they say, “We’re prepared to pay reasonable taxes, but we’ve got to get something in return.” What they see is a system where their neighbourhoods are no longer safe. They see a government that’s distinguished itself through its term of office by an antagonistic environment between law enforcement officers and the government itself. My constituents, quite frankly, are concerned about that.

The anti-police attitude was first evident in the appointment of Susan Eng as the chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board. Susan Eng has long



been known as a person who has an antagonistic relationship with Metropolitan Toronto's law enforcement officers. She has virtually no credibility among police officers, yet she's been placed in a position of utmost importance.

A clear demonstration of antagonism again exists when we see three Metropolitan Toronto police officers up for early retirement and they state lack of support from the government as the reason for their departure. Police Chief Bill McCormack highlighted the problem created by the NDP when he stated: "To fulfil those duties of a police officer, you have to have the support of those you serve. We have found ourselves in places of high profile without that support."

The anti-police attitude of the NDP is best illustrated by the fact that it preferred an indictment against Brian Rapson after he'd already been discharged by a provincial court judge. That decision by the Attorney General brought the integrity of the justice system into doubt and it struck a blow against the morale of every police officer policing in this province. There's just no question the decision to prefer that indictment smacked of political opportunism.

In a survey conducted in my riding of Willowdale, over 60% of the respondents stated that the government had assigned too low a priority to the justice system, yet this government continues to belittle the efforts of members of our law enforcement branches and ignores the need for increased government focus on the system as a whole.

One of the prevalent issues facing people in my riding is public safety. People in my riding, especially women, are afraid to take public transportation, they're afraid to walk through their own neighbourhoods at night, and the government is not making their safety any kind of priority.

Last October the Solicitor General acknowledged that crime rates in Metropolitan Toronto were rising out of proportion compared to the rest of the province, but he stated he was unwilling to provide any assistance. That is not acceptable to the people who live in Willowdale, the people who are afraid to walk through their own neighbourhoods at night, the people who are afraid to take public transportation.

I can tell you, when the Solicitor General stands up and says that crime is not increasing in this province by any drastic amount, he is living in a closet. He does not know what is going on in the streets, particularly in the streets of Metropolitan Toronto. We know there was a 37.7% rise in homicides from 1990 to 1991 and, lo and behold, those are the years this government became the government. Attempted homicides are up 18.5%; abductions are up 22%; sexual assault is up 10.8%, non-sexual assault up 6.1%, robbery up 18.9%. In my riding, people can't find the means to secure their houses against break-and-enter. It has become a problem all across Metropolitan Toronto.

1620

What does the Solicitor General say? He acknowledges that crime is going up in Metropolitan Toronto out of proportion to the rest of the province, yet he's not prepared to do anything about it. All he's prepared to do is stand there and tell us they have new methods of appointing people to boards and they have new methods of doing this and doing

that, but he doesn't talk about any methods for policing, for providing safe neighbourhoods.

He talks about what's going on in the Legislative Assembly committee in room 151 of this building, but I can tell you that's not making the people in my riding any more secure when they're in their homes and people intrude or when they're robbed or when they're walking from the bus. What the Solicitor General says in his speech here today is totally unresponsive to the people of my riding, just the way the throne speech is totally unresponsive to the needs of the people in this province when it comes to policing and justice enforcement.

It's interesting to note that total non-violent crimes in the last year went up 11.6%. The target for this coming year indicates we're going to increase again the amount of crime, which went up between 1990 and 1991.

My time is limited. I merely wish to stand and convey to the Solicitor General, who I am pleased is here, the concerns of the people who live in my riding, because their neighbourhoods are no longer safe, their homes are no longer safe, public transportation in Metropolitan Toronto is no longer safe. I urge the Solicitor General to do something; not to say, "We can't do anything," not to belittle the efforts of the police departments, not to rest on what happens in room 151 at Queen's Park, but to do something.

**Mr Mills:** I am very pleased to take part in this debate today. I've also been pleased to listen to the comments from the opposition.

I just want to say that this morning I was in Newcastle, in my riding, at two schools. While there, we celebrated together, and I wear the badge proudly, "Proud to be a Canadian." It was quite a moving morning when the local band, with the young people there, played O Canada, and everybody stood up there and said and did various things to indicate how proud they were to be Canadian. I was among the group to do that.

It's rather disappointing for me, as a person who's proud of this country, to stand here in this Legislature today and hear the members opposite absolutely slam-bang-dunk the whole judicial-police system in Ontario. I don't think that's being very fair and I don't think it's doing the province any good. I am certain that a number of people who are watching are very upset about some of the things that have been said here.

We talk about the shortage of policemen, but it's a fact that the police ratio to population is the same today as it was in fact 10 years ago. Some 87% of the people in Ontario are very pleased with the way the policing of the province is going on today. I think that's very encouraging.

I tried this afternoon not to be political or partisan, but I can't, because I listened to the member for Leeds-Grenville, and it almost made me ill to listen to some of the dreadful things he said about the mosaic culture of our country.

When we talk about politicized police services boards, I don't know how on earth anyone over there can say that with a straight face, because when they were in power they not only politicized the police boards, but they did that to every other board and everything that moved. We still have evidence of that in the province today. There are still some of those folks around.



When the God-emperor William Davis sat across there as the Premier of the province—

Interjection.

**Mr Mills:** That word, "God-emperor," is not mine. That word I attribute to the former Conservative member for Durham East who held the seat before I did. Those were his words: "The God-emperor ruled everything with an iron fist." We know the police boards were among those items he ruled with an iron fist.

I'm going to go back a few steps in time, to about a dozen years ago. At that time I was an alderman for the city of Barrie. A constituent came to me and complained about the difficulty he had in placing burglar alarms in the local police station. We discussed the matter and it turned out that the chairman of that police board was in fact the co-owner, with a son, of a numbered company that controlled the burglar alarms in that police station. It took a considerable effort on my part to get a public inquiry going into that situation. It took a lot of public input to do that. The reason was—because those folks over there talk about the way things are now—that was the good old boys club and they were trying to protect the good old boys. That is the way they work.

I'm very perturbed about the comments made about the chairman of the Toronto police board, Ms Eng. I sat on a committee during the summer and Ms Eng appeared before that committee. Afterwards I had the opportunity to speak with her. I said: "I'm very pleased to meet you here today. I've read a lot about you." She said: "You know I am really a human being. I haven't got crooked teeth and big horns coming out of my head." We had quite a discussion.

I've got news for those people over there who say she has no knowledge or concept of how policing is in Ontario or how police boards work. I spent over 20 years as a police officer in Ontario and I can tell from experience in my discussion with Ms Eng that she had quite a grasp on the whole issue of policing. She was very knowledgeable. We spent maybe 15 minutes talking about it.

I went home and happened to be talking to my wife. I said, "We have all that terrible press about this young woman and it's absolutely despicable, because during my discussion with her today I found her so enlightened and such a positive effect on policing in Ontario." I think it's awful for those people over there, who don't understand or have never worked as policemen, to criticize a person they neither know nor have spoken to.

**Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent):** Personal attacks.

**Mr Mills:** As my friend in front of me says, it's a personal attack. I agree with him.

Of course there's an increase in crime. That increase in crime is commensurate with the times we live in. All down through history when we get tough times there are people who resort to crime. This is the way out. I read in a newspaper the other day that down in Michigan the governor of that state declared that every able-bodied person would no longer be eligible for welfare. So what has happened in Michigan is that they have created two different sets of people. The people who are healthy and well can't get a

job because there aren't any, so they've turned to violence and crime and end up in prison. The frail, disabled and weak can't turn to crime, so they end up in hospital. The governor of Michigan has solved nothing in so far as his dealing with the welfare recipients in the state of Michigan is concerned.

1630

I would like to turn now to the 911 service. This government continues to support the implementation of the 911 system across this province. That system is one of the greatest assets that I can remember or know about in fighting crime.

In my past position as the parliamentary assistant to the previous Solicitor General I had the pleasure of going to Orillia to launch its 911 system, and what a day that was. It was exciting, and the people were very excited about that service. Afterwards I was mingling around there with a few of the citizens, and a lady came up to me—rather elderly, rather frail—and she said, "This 911 system, what it's given to me is the key to the police station, it's given me the key to the fire station, and it's also given me the key to immediate response for ambulance services."

I think that when we look at the overall service people in Ontario receive in respect of protection, one mustn't ever forget the 911 service that has been provided under the auspices of this government. Seventy-five per cent of Ontario is covered by 911; 10% is presently under study.

I'd just like to turn to the use of innovative technology, and it's this government's commitment to supply that to the people of Ontario. I'd just like to apprise the House of a recent development that I had the privilege of seeing in England. There the police cars—and I'm sure it's only a hop, skip and jump away from coming to Ontario—have a computer set up in the patrol cars that automatically keeps recognizing the licence plates of the cars in front. It brings up the owners and everything about them—if they're wanted; if the car's wanted; if it's stolen. This keeps on going on all day as they drive about the highways over there. Should something of significance arise, there is a beeper that sounds off to alert that police officer to apprehend that car. I'm sure that's the sort of technology we are looking for in Ontario that will increase the capabilities of our police forces.

In the old days, in the old ways—I can speak from some experience—I can remember going to Highway 27 and setting up the speed traps up there with the two rubber tubes across the road. I can remember that I always used to have to take a tape measure with me because these two pieces of tubing had to be precisely 15 feet apart. Otherwise the speed gauge wouldn't be right, as you can see. If it was a little bit wider it would make some difference to the estimation of the speed.

I can remember also being in a community where police communications were such that someone used to flash the street lights on and off if there was a call coming in that we should respond to. So why I am talking about that is that in Ontario we have come a long, long way in the last 30 or 40 years, and we continue to go ahead.

Training is important both for the safety of the public and of the police officer. Programs geared to special training



to deal with hostage-taking and wife assault are an ongoing function of the Ministry of the Solicitor General. That is a far cry from the days when I was going through some basic training, where all you had to know was unarmed combat, which was the main thing anyone ever thought was important.

The government is showing leadership in the modernization of the provision of policing services and public safety, and we have a long way to go.

I'd like to go back to Sir John Peel. He was the founder of the police force in London, England, in the 1800s, and most of the police forces are modelled on some style of John Peel's. It is traditional—

**Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West):** Robert Peel, isn't it?

**Mr Mills:** Robert. I beg your pardon. Thank you. The member for Durham West corrected me. It's Robert Peel. Anyway, he traditionally is the father of policing as we know it today throughout the world. That was fine in the 1800s, but it doesn't wash today in the 20th century.

**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** Neither does socialism.

**Mr Mills:** My friend across the road there interjects, "Neither does socialism." Well, I think socialism in place of what they had to offer for 42 years is the difference between night and day.

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** Good management. Forty-two best years this province ever had. Can't wait to get back to it.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Address the Chair, please.

**Mr Mills:** The member opposite talks of 42 years. Well, I don't have to tell you about those 42 years because you and I share the same age bracket. Anyway, getting back to Sir John Peel—

**Interjection:** Robert Peel.

**Mr Mills:** Robert Peel; I shall get it right yet. Robert Peel was a fine example for policing in the 1800s. He's not an example today because we have to rethink the way we police the province of Ontario, we have to rethink the way we provide policing services and we have to rethink our whole attitude to the relationship between the police and the public. We still have a long way to go. We are far from reaching the goal of this government.

I would like to conclude by saying that I have, spread out through Ontario, many, many friends who are policemen. I've had some conversations with these fine people over recent weeks, and I can assure you that their concerns and their ideas are not in step with the nonsense, the gobbledegook, the tommyrot that the member for Leeds-Grenville has tried to imply here this afternoon. I think what he had to say was a disgrace. I think it's a disgrace to the people of Ontario and to the province of Ontario to belittle the police like you did, and so I say again—disgraceful behaviour.

**Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North):** It's unfortunate that we have maybe two days to debate this because maybe we could have brought some sense to both the government and to the third party.

I'll start off by making reference to the motion before us. I should say first how extremely disappointed I was about the motion the honourable member for Leeds-Grenville put forward. The first thing that jumped out is to associate us with a government whose action in regard to justice has been poor, to say the least. I also was quite surprised that the honourable member's motion itself lacks the research that is needed for this. Many of the things there are not so, putting it lightly.

Having said that, it also gave me the opportunity to speak in regard to justice in this province. Before I do so, I would like to pay tribute to our law enforcement officers, those quite able-bodied men and women who risk their lives daily so we can have a society that is safe in order to live and to work. I want to commend them because I have lived in many, many cities and many countries, and I want to tell you that in Canada we have a very wonderful country and in Ontario we have a wonderful province, and in this city we can say it's basically safe.

1640

I know too that with what has happened over the last 10 years or so, the challenges faced by our law enforcement officers have been quite a challenge for the police. The fact is that the demographic makeup of this province, especially in the cities, has changed dramatically: the multicultural society that needs a much more sensitive approach to issues, an understanding of culture which is quite necessary in order to enforce law or even to make law.

I would say, though, that this present government doesn't give the necessary support to our law enforcement staff and officers and the justice system in this province. It's quite evident. You must have read of the cutbacks and the lack of funding that have appeared and have happened over the last couple of months.

We have seen the Solicitor General whose time is spent constantly—as a matter of fact, I would suggest to the Premier to change his title. Maybe you should call him the Minister of Sunday Shopping. The energy he has put into this, on Sunday shopping, if he would just redirect it to look at justice, I think the Solicitor General could have done a better job. Therefore, I think the support that is needed by those law enforcement officers is not there.

I heard this attack by the member for Leeds-Grenville on the inactivity of the government of the day at the time in 1985 to 1990. He speaks of the Liberal government. I think he should really go back to see some of the achievements we did. As a matter of fact, the anti-drug strategy initiative was done by the Liberal government. In the 42 years the Conservative Party was in power, there were no amendments at all to the Police Act; none. They thought more or less that things were going fine. They were just ignoring the cosmopolitan direction the cities were going in: no acts at all, no changes to the Police Act.

As to what we did, we saw the changes that have come about, with a much more sensitive Police Services Act today. We saw that the training that was needed by the police was there, but what is happening today, as we know, is that they fall flat and are sleeping at the switch. This



present government now does not continue to do what is necessary.

The increase, of course: We talk about victims who were not being compensated. We saw a 50% increase in the awards to those victims of crime. In 1986 we did that, as far back as 1986, to amend the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act. I heard, as I said, the lack of research by the member for Leeds-Grenville, who said that we did nothing.

It is very difficult to find out how they could associate us with such a government like this that has been very neglectful. I could cite a couple of things. The other day I raised in this House the shortage of OPP officers in the regions outside Metropolitan Toronto. Seeing that this government at this time brought 20 officers down to protect a budget, placing them in the Sutton Place, of course, at a high price, that money could be better used in supporting the need of policing within those regions. To think about it, to take away those officers where they are most needed, I think it's a great lack of will by this present government to do so.

The current government has now been slow to respond to the concerns of people in the province about the increase in crime rates. Yes, there has been an increase in crime rates in the province and the concerns are pretty real, but from this government we get a collective shrug of indifference. I have pointed this out many times to the minister in the House and somehow I get that he thinks it's kind of funny the way we address this serious concern.

I could bring you examples each day, Mr Minister, of people who fear for their lives on the street. Each day that we turn the TV on we see the abduction of people. We're wondering if it's our daughter or son next. We are very concerned. We feel that with the technological advancement that is happening, criminals themselves have the tools—I remember a police officer said to me that the criminals are sometimes more advanced in technological advancement, in order to do crime, than the police are.

I will give you an example, Mr Speaker, and you will understand this. I visited a police station in my riding in Scarborough. While they were showing me some of the new accommodations they had acquired, I saw a typewriter on a desk. I thought it was an antique, as a matter of fact, and I commended the officer who was maybe collecting antiques. He said: "It's not an antique. That's the typewriter we use." The kind of funding from this government does not even give them sufficient funds to buy adequate typewriters.

**Mr Wiseman:** If it's an old one, it's your fault.

**Mr Curling:** Somehow, as we hear from the government, as soon as we point out some inadequacy within the system it will then shout: "It was your government that was in power then. Why didn't you look after it?" Or the Conservative Party, which sat around for years and didn't even realize that the province was changing dramatically, in the type of people here, but oh no, they went along and said, "It's fine." We have seen that some of the members of the police force—of course, as I've said, I'm very proud of our police force, but there are some elements within that

police force that need to be addressed, some of the racism that is there, some of the recruiting devices they should do and the training. That must be addressed. I urge that policing is not only by police, as if we were in a police state or the police had the enforcement of law.

In order to have a safe society, we need the cooperation of citizens and politicians. Talking about politicians, from as soon as we asked the government to assist us in making a non-political, non-partisan type of policy, we have had more interference by the government than ever. As a matter of fact, the minister got up today and said how much has improved about the appointments to police boards and what have you.

The headline itself showed it, Mr Speaker. I know you can read from here with your careful eyes. I will do it for you. It is marked "Patronage." That's what it says here. This is the same government that said it would establish—"Patronage Denied in Two Police Board Appointments." So they say. Mel Swart's daughter, it said. "Oh no, no. Although she is a member of the NDP, it has nothing to do with her being appointed." I don't think that because she's a member of the NDP she should not be appointed to a board, but I think there's a process.

When they came into office they said they would put that process through the legislative committee, and up to now, because of course they have a majority in that committee, not one has been turned down. Sometimes we don't even get a chance to question these people. Sometimes they say time has run out in order to appoint people to the police board. Of course it is the Liberal initiative which they've all tried their best to improve. The problem we have is that we have a government that's trying to improve something that was good to begin with and it is incapable of doing so.

I have no confidence in the Solicitor General. As a matter of fact, as an individual I really like him. He is a nice gentleman who came from an upstanding family, but as a Solicitor General he is weak. As a Sunday shopping advocate, or whatever way he wants to go, he's a little bit better. But we don't want a Minister of Sunday Shopping; we want a Solicitor General. We want a Solicitor General who is able to put in a good justice system and enforcement of law in this province and give the necessary funding in order that they can carry out their duties.

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I just want, in the time I have, to address some of the backlog, because it's important. Mr Speaker, I know you questioned my colleague the member for Brampton South, saying that he should be on topic. I think the point he is trying to make is that the backlog we see has discouraged some of the policemen from enforcing the law. The courts are backed up. Police officers have made arrests and brought them to the courts.

I see the Attorney General now has decided that quite a few of the cases that are too long should be thrown out. Can you imagine how those people, the victims of those crimes, feel when they have waited all these years because the system has not worked properly? They have gotten off scot-free. We must do something about that; the backlog in the courts has to be addressed.



Again, as soon as you identify the problem the government will quickly say, "Oh, you were in power." I'm telling you, my dear friend, that you are the government, you are the person to make the decision. You have been making great decisions. You are making decisions like having casinos without discussing it with the people. Therefore, if you want to be a dictator, which you are in many ways, you can go ahead and do some of the good things.

Some of the things—if you do not carry it through the public and we know and assess it to be good, we will support it. But some of the things they are doing today—and we have pointed out, he sits there and says it is the fault of the previous government. It is not so. The previous government's record stands there to be examined.

I am not here to defend the Liberal government's initiatives. Why should I defend them? It is there. As I said, for 40 years the Police Services Act was never amended. It is there now amended and moving in the right direction.

I ask that this government come to its senses, that the minister himself get together with the Attorney General and all the people who have been suffering so much, in the sense of law enforcement.

I want to address a very sensitive issue—and some of the issues you may expect me to address: the relationships in the community, the police and the communities—and it relates to training. It relates to the demographics, the breakdown of the different multicultural societies. From time to time we have confrontations. It is not the policemen's fault at all; it is a matter of how we put a better understanding of our people. No laws can be made, any law at all—I'm not a lawyer, but I feel that if laws are being made, there should be consultation and understanding of the people and their culture, working together with the people.

What this government has done, and I see as they cut back—I hope the Solicitor General is listening—that some of the funds needed to have a community outreach are cut off. I tell the Solicitor General that the last money he should cut out is for those community outreach programs, because that's where the community sees the police officer as an individual, a person, a family individual. When you cut that off because it is easier and political to do, you have damaged the kind of relationship and the fostering of the good policing that we have. Some of the communities here are very upset.

Tomorrow, Mr Speaker, I know you will be there, and I've asked the Solicitor General and the member for Leeds-Grenville, who shows great interest in policing. There will be a demonstration tomorrow outside the House in the afternoon, the evening. Don't miss it if you can; come out to hear some of the concerns, the hurting, the feeling of these communities who are saying they are being harassed by the police, maybe wrongfully or rightfully. I don't know.

A community in this democratic society will come out—since the socialists always praise themselves and wrap themselves around democracy—so come out and listen to these people tomorrow. I ask the member for Leeds-Grenville, of course, to be there, and also my good friend the member for Willowdale, who made a very scathing

attack on some of the community leaders. They would then ask, who appointed them as leaders? But as soon as they speak on an issue of concern to the people, there are leaders.

**Interjection:** Dudley Laws is a leader.

**Mr Curling:** Dudley Laws is a leader, Charlie Roach is a leader. You may not agree with these individuals, but I say we have to listen. They are citizens of our country. They are citizens of our country and the law must protect all. Therefore, I challenge you all to come out there and be a part of those people. Be a part of the Chinese community that has a different kind of interaction in communities and bring them all in. Because then we have, as we call them, ghettos. Of course we have different kinds of ghettos, but a better understanding.

Mr Solicitor General, my appeal to you is not to cut off those funds. If you have done so and you are at the cabinet table, speak to the Premier, who himself embraced many ethnic groups and talks about how much he understands them, and say: "It's not that I used to do that. I continue to do that. I continue to go to the ethnic events, all events."

I say to the Solicitor General to tell the Premier at the cabinet table that this is the last fund he should cut off because those are the bridges that you are building. Don't leave those police officers out there alone without any funds. Don't leave those communities up in the north with a lack of police enforcement officers. Of course, I could demonstrate with boxes and what have you, and we have many newspaper clippings that tell you about the cutbacks of funds and the damage it's doing to the people.

Then you find you must protect some white paper as a cabinet submission, or whatever the case may be, and bring in all these policemen to protect that. But, Mr Speaker, let me tell you something, and you must have seen this too. I don't even have to wait in the least; I just read it in the papers. I can read in the papers of all those things that need that protection. Where the money is needed is to give those officers the type of capital funds and operational funds that are needed. Don't stand back and say to me, "Every time you say, 'Spend more,'" because if you don't pay now, they will pay later.

In summary, I say to you that this is an important matter. It touches the hearts of mothers and fathers and families. It touches the hearts of children. It touches the heart of a community. I say to the Solicitor General, when he stands in here to make the announcement about employment equity in the police force or anything else, to make sure he understands the people. The SIU, special investigations unit, that we have is not working effectively. We have a case in Ottawa right now that we are waiting to complete.

I am anxiously awaiting those reports because while we are awaiting those, people are concerned. People are losing their confidence in the police force, not solely because of the police, some of the bad ones, but because of how it's funded, and not solely because of the Solicitor General. Maybe because of the criticism that is given here, that is unfounded in itself.



In ending, I want to tell you again that I am very happy to know that my country of Canada and my province of Ontario have a good police force. There are some rotten eggs there; they're all over the place. We hope we can clean that up and have the best police force we can ever have in the world.

**Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West):** I am pleased to join the debate today on the motion put forward by my colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville. Before I get into the text of my remarks, I want to comment on the remarks of the member for Scarborough North of the Liberal Party.

I think it's a good indication of the tremendous government my predecessors in the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party provided for 42 years that when you think back over that time, we had such a tremendous commitment to law and order in this province. Only twice in the long history of the Ontario Provincial Police Association has it felt the need to speak out publicly about its concerns regarding policing and the lack of officers or the number of officers in this province. Once was under the Liberal government and, more recently, under the NDP government, in the long history of the association. My predecessors in the Ontario PC party believed in law and order. It was a priority with our party and continues to be a priority today, and we see that in the motion put forward by my colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville.

I say to the Solicitor General that if his government, the NDP government can't get its priorities in order, then he should resign. We went through an election some 18 months ago with Bob Rae where I went to the door and people said, "Bob Rae has a corner on compassion." Only Bob Rae could look after—only the Premier. Mr Speaker, I am sorry—

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order. When you refer to a member, you refer either to his riding or to his title. Bob Rae is the Premier of Ontario or the member for York South.

1700

**Mr Jim Wilson:** Only the Premier, they felt, had a corner on compassion. I say we had 42 years of good government. We had fiscal responsibility, good management and a large dose of compassion. Our record on compassion is second to none. Yours is all baloney. It's all hearsay. It's all opposition rhetoric from years in the back benches. But we have a record and we're proud of that record, and policing was part of that record. We didn't increase the number of bureaucrats in the Solicitor General's office by some 67%. We didn't spend \$4 million or \$5 million on bilingual highway signs in Ontario. My constituents aren't anti-French; they simply want money directed to where it's needed.

I don't think the Solicitor General understands what it means to go to sleep at night and be scared. I don't think he understands that. He says that my party is scaremongering.

I quote from the reeve of Creemore. Members will recall that five times in this Legislature over the last 18 months I've raised the problems of lack of 24-hour policing in communities like Wasaga Beach, Creemore and Stayner. I'm pleased to see the OPP association is now on

side with its ad campaign and trying to put pressure on the government, and I'm pleased to see the Solicitor General is here today to once again listen to our pleas for 24-hour policing.

The reeve of Creemore, Ralph MacDonald, said in a *Globe and Mail* article on February 4, 1992: "Now almost everybody's scared to go to bed. If you want a policeman, you can't get one. It's not a good scene right now. And it's getting worse." That is a reeve, an elected municipal official. I suppose the Solicitor General would say that Mr MacDonald is scaremongering. I don't think he is.

Last year, in the span of four weeks, Smart's pharmacy in Creemore was burglarized three times and each time narcotics were stolen. Peter Moon, in a *Globe and Mail* article, writes of an elderly Nottawasaga township couple who had heard a burglar in their home and called the Stayner OPP detachment. The Stayner detachment was closed, because we don't have 24-hour policing in most of my riding of Simcoe West. The call was then sent to the dispatcher in Barrie, and the dispatcher told the couple, who were sleeping in their bedroom, with a burglar out in the living room, that it would be 40 minutes before they could get an officer to that home.

That's what it's like to live without 24-hour policing. That's what it's like to go to bed scared, being scared to go to bed because the pharmacy down the street and across the road is being broken into. It has all the alarms and whistles in the world. The last time the pharmacy was broken into, the crooks took about a half-hour. They took their sweet time about it. When Ferris's enterprise, a gas station, an Esso station in Singhampton, was broken into and some \$22,000 worth of cigarettes stolen, the crooks had enough time to drink a can of pop. They left their footprints in the sand outside the store and a pop can on top of the machine, because they knew the police would be a half-hour to 40 minutes coming from Barrie.

We need 24-hour policing. The NDP's policy on crime and order and policing in rural areas seems to be: Put a peephole in your door, put a deadlock bolt on your door and move your door to Toronto. That's your response so far, Solicitor General, to my many letters to you and to your predecessor, the member for Cambridge. It's disgusting that you people cannot make policing a priority.

The Solicitor General began today by telling us that policing, law and order, was a basic right, the right to protection of people's property and person. Then he spent the rest of his speech giving us dozens of reasons why his government can't live up to fulfilling that basic right for citizens of this province.

That excuse was not acceptable when they were in opposition and we were in government. We provided policing, and why you people can't get your priorities in order is beyond me. We have made suggestion after suggestion after suggestion on how you can get your priorities in order. You've not listened to any of them, and the people in my riding continue to go without 24-hour policing.

I think it's a real shame and I think it's a moral issue, that this government has a moral obligation to live up to and it's failing miserably, and I'm pleased that this motion was brought forward today so we have the opportunity to



once again hammer away at the government members and plant the idea in their heads that policing and 24-hour policing in rural areas must be a priority.

Now we've heard that although we're told to move our doors to Toronto, today members from Metropolitan Toronto have brought to the attention of the House a number of policing concerns. I learned today that those concerns are very similar to my own and in my own riding.

If the NDP cannot get its priorities in order, then the Solicitor General should simply step down. The fact of the matter is that I've written to him on several occasions and I keep getting back the same form letter. Actually, I should say to the Solicitor General that it's become a joke in my riding. Every time I get the form letter back, I publish it in the local papers. It talks about all the fiscal restraints the government is under and how there's no way it can provide us with 24-hour policing. That's not acceptable. People do not deserve to go to bed at night scared.

I say to the Premier, as I've said to the Premier on many occasions in this House, and I say to the socialists that people cannot enjoy the expanded social programs that the Premier is bringing in and has already brought in. They can't enjoy those programs if they don't feel safe and secure in their own communities.

Security, safety, law and order must be a number one priority of this government. I'm hopeful that the Solicitor General, in the upcoming budget, will have made some headway with the Treasurer in bringing forward more funding for the OPP so that we can have the 24-hour policing we used to have before the Liberals came to office.

We had 24-hour policing in my riding for as long as anyone can remember, but in 1986, over their term in office, the Liberals allowed the number of OPP officers to slip. It didn't keep up with population growth; it led to increased crime and now today, despite assurances from the Liberal Solicitor General at the time that they would restore 24-hour policing, we're stuck with another government that doesn't even give us those assurances. It simply says it can't afford to do it; it is leaving us in the dark and tells us to move our doors to Toronto. That isn't acceptable.

I hope the Solicitor General will not just consult and listen, like he always tells us he's doing, but I hope he'll actually do something. We want to see some action. The word "consultation" is overused by you socialists and the word "listening" is overused. We want to see action. My constituents deserve it. They pay their taxes like everyone else in Ontario and they deserve 24-hour policing.

**Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls):** I wish to address the motion put forward by the member for Leeds-Grenville, a wonderful part of this province where I grew up, but second to the riding of Niagara Falls.

In his motion the member states, "There has been a significant increase in...violent crimes and crimes against women and children." He relates this to "since this government has assumed office," as if there were cause and effect here. This theory is so obviously without sense that I think it is appropriate that we look for cause and effect here.

Certainly I must go back and say that rape, incest, murder, all those things have certainly been around. One

has only to think of the revelations coming forward now from the 1950s and 1960s and what happened in places like orphanages and training schools to realize that it has been there. It has been covered up. At least now things are more open. Surely that is the beginning of some change.

The member for Leeds-Grenville is striving in his own way to know why violence is occurring. Many people are struggling similarly with the daily news of violence. I believe it is appropriate to look at the cause. This was an article in the *Toronto Star* at the end of 1991, looking at all the different women that have been killed in this province. Some very interesting conclusions were drawn from this.

"There is a war going on out there and these are the casualties: There are faces and stories of some of the women who have been murdered in Ontario during the past year—stabbed, shot, strangled, suffocated, bludgeoned to death. They have been attacked with axes, chainsaws and hunting knives. One was impaled with a crossbow bolt. Another was set on fire in her own bed. They have died horrible, violent deaths, in many cases death at the hands of the men that they loved and trusted. Many died while trying to leave abusive relationships after taking steps that society had told them they should take."

In searching for causes, I was looking to a study that was done by a woman named Maria Crawford, working on a grant from the Ontario women's directorate. She has combed through coroners' and police files to get an accurate picture of the deaths of 900 women from 1974 till 1990. Her project looked at the initial charges that were laid, whether they were reduced and the length of sentences handed out. Some of her recommendations are the following, after her study.

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First of all, when a woman says, "He's going to kill me," it tends to be true. The police might start treating all domestic disputes as potential homicides.

Her second recommendation: Police need to enforce restraining orders more stringently. Police should respond more quickly to domestic disputes and police should lay charges against men who batter, whether the victim wants those charges laid or not.

I would like to give a little more personal example. On an August holiday weekend in 1990 I went to my local police station with a young woman, whom I will call Ruth, to help her deal with a complaint against two police officers. We had to take along her six children, who were under the age of eight. Her husband beats her—she has been forced to flee to the local women's shelter before—and although ordered to pay support by the court, he refuses to pay. The support and custody enforcement office has such a backlog that Ruth's file has been on record for five years and has had trouble being processed. She is trapped in the welfare system in Ontario housing. She is a victim of frequent violent assaults. She has no feeling of security from police protection.

What has happened to Ruth has affected many of her neighbours as well. Women have become demoralized, discouraged and rendered powerless—powerless because they're poor. They live in public housing because they're



women. When women are victimized and powerless they rarely stand up for their rights. In this particular case she declined to take any further action on her own behalf to follow up on the complaint. These women simply learn to endure.

What is violence against women? It is just a soul-destroying subordination. It is the loss of control over one's life. It is the loss of dignity. It's a feeling of entrapment and the horror of living with constant violence.

I would like to come back to the answer, I hope, or try somehow to get near an answer for the member for Leeds-Grenville. According to the Ontario women's directorate: "Violence against women is both a cause and an effect in our society, the cause and effect of a power imbalance between men and women. Wife assault is a reflection of men seeking power and control over women."

Solutions to this problem of violence, and particularly violence against women, are not found in the old ways, as the opposition may suggest, such as more money and more officers. That will not get to the root of the cause.

I would like to give some suggestions of a positive nature: mandatory judicial education so judges understand and can be sensitive to issues of sexism and racism, more women on the bench and a more open and public approach to how judges are appointed, and curriculum courses dealing with sexism and racism from the preschool level up. Police services boards certainly must appoint women, minorities, people who represent the whole of society. I would also like to suggest a change in the welfare system to empower and enable, not denigrate, people. Appointing women to the local housing authorities, even women tenants, might be a good start as well.

I would like to put my thesis—that women and politics equals equality—on the table. I believe if we had, say, half of all our politicians, whether it be at the municipal, federal or provincial level, that would certainly go a long way against violence against women; and economic and political—I hate to use the word "power"—being involved in our community and across this nation. I believe that's what women need to stop violence.

I would like to go a little bit further, hopefully in a couple of minutes, and tell you this. I would like to attribute it to Michael Kaufman, who teaches at York University and was the originator of the White Ribbon Campaign:

"Researchers tell us that half of tribal societies investigated over the past century had no or very low levels of violence. Some had no rape, no battering, no fist fights, no war. Humans in general"—this is proof—"and men in particular are not generally programmed for violence against each other. If it's not biologically innate, then it must be learned.

"Anthropologists tell us that societies where there is very little violence are more or less egalitarian. Men didn't control women and men didn't control each other. They tell us that societies with more violence have been societies of male dominance. Men have learned to think of power as the ability to dominate and control, and when men do not have this ability to control, what happens? Far too often, many may use harassment, abuse and violence. Harassers, rapists, batterers, murderers of women are not simply de-

ranged. They have bought into the message that they have got to dominate."

Mr Kaufman concludes: "Violence occurs in societies of inequality between men and women. Feminism is a vision of equality between men and women. It is a vision of liberation for women and men and a liberation from violence."

The member for Leeds-Grenville is rightly concerned about violence's causes and solutions. I ask him to think about the solution of sharing power, of an empowerment of all people. The patriarchal system must go. We must support our police. They are very important. We must support them in this change. They have a very difficult job. They need all our support.

**Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North):** I want to join this debate this afternoon. It's quite timely for me because last week I had the opportunity to attend a public meeting in the village of Cobden, which is a community of some 1,100 people in the heart of the farm district in central Renfrew county.

The meeting had been called by the Cobden and District Business Association so we could discuss in a public forum the concerns of the Cobden and District Business Association and, I must say, others in the community who have a concern about law and order, crime and punishment and the appropriateness and availability or lack thereof of our provincial police services. From my point of view, I must say it was an extremely useful dialogue. It is one of the very few times in the course of my 16½ years in this Legislature that I've been called to a public meeting to discuss policing, at least in my constituency.

I must say I echo the concerns of a number of other members of this assembly on all sides who have indicated in this debate this afternoon that this is an issue that is rising in terms of its importance in the public agenda. I don't mean to speak for everyone, but certainly in my area there's no question that over the course of the last number of months there has been a noticeable increase in the number of individuals who have spoken and written to me.

I can cite, for example, a letter I received from the president of the Cobden and District Business Association, Mr Merrill Schauer, which letter of 23 March 1992 outlines some 15 to 18 different break-and-enters in the village of Cobden over the past 12 to 15 months. That, I must say, is a profile that concerns me, other members of the Legislature and certainly is of concern to people living in the village of Cobden. That's just one example.

Last fall I raised a number of concerns about the staffing and support services we now find in some of our rural OPP detachments in my part of eastern Ontario. I can think specifically of some concerns that were raised with me about the very rural detachment at Killaloe, about certain limitations that have been placed on the detachment by higher authorities.

The question arises, what is to be done? I want to be very clear. It was interesting. At the meeting the other night, a video was made available from the Ontario Provincial Police Association, wherein it outlined its concern about underfunding and cutbacks and related cost-containment measures. I must say, given it was part of a lobby, I



thought the video on behalf of the Ontario Provincial Police Association was reasonably moderate as those kinds of lobbies go.

1720

I want to say here this afternoon that I think it is probably time for this Legislative Assembly, or more appropriately one of its committees, to inquire into the situation of how it is we organize and fund our Ontario Provincial Police.

I can say, from my own point of view, it's not a budget I know a great deal about. That's obviously a comment about my inadequacies over the years. But I was saying en passant to the member for Etobicoke West that as I looked at the statistics in preparation for last week's meeting in Cobden, I did a very quick scan of the estimates for the Ontario Provincial Police over a seven- to eight-year period. I did a very random check. I thought it interesting that in 1983-84 the moneys voted by this Legislature in support of the operations of the Ontario Provincial Police were approximately \$250 million. In 1991 the operating budget for the Ontario Provincial Police had risen to some \$420 million, approximately.

Now, people talk about cutbacks. I just simply want to submit to you, Mr Speaker, that over that seven-year period approximately, that budget, on the operating account, rose by—I didn't do the calculation, but it's something probably in the order of about 65%, from roughly \$250 million to approximately \$420 million. I don't doubt that this allocation requires more attention and more support. I'm sure the member for Oshawa, the Solicitor General, will do his part in lobbying for additional resources, but I want to say here what I said in Cobden the other night. I do not personally favour any additional appropriation until I have a good look at how we're spending the \$420 million that is now being allocated. I don't doubt that more money and more resources are needed and ought to be applied, but I want to know how it is that we are spending the money that is now being allocated.

I hear from friends of mine who are in various police forces that they think there is certain internal reorganization, certain adjustments, that could be made that would make savings possible. I am again just reporting anecdotally what I hear, but I'll tell you, I know too many police officers who tell me about the amount of time and money spent moving people back and forth around court dates, the overtime that is paid not just by the provincial police but by other police forces, to accommodate sending people to court.

Now, obviously we have to send our officers to court, but we have had a very inefficient court system. Much of that inefficiency or some of that inefficiency is bearing down on our police budgets. My anecdotal evidence may not be complete and it may not even be accurate, but more than a few police officers and other court officials have told me that they think we can be much more efficient about the way in which we organize sending police officers to court. I don't know, but I've heard just enough to make me believe that is something we ought to look at.

I want to say something as well about police budgets. They are some of the most sensitive and difficult budgets

that any Parliament is ever going to have to deal with. It's rather like a group of civilian legislators trying to control the Pentagon or the Department of Defense. There has been a culture over the decades in most of the western industrialized communities that the Pentagon sends the bill and Congress is expected to pay and not ask any questions.

There's some of that in the relationships around police forces in various parliaments. I don't mean to offend the sensibilities of my friend the quiet member for Etobicoke West, but I will say to the assembly what I said to him just a few moments ago in an aside. In my experience in public life, I think one of the most, if not the most extravagant public edifices I have ever seen exists about four blocks from here. It's the new Metropolitan Toronto Police headquarters. There is a Taj Mahal.

I'm all for supporting the police, and I think we're well served by the Ontario Provincial Police. I ought to know. I live on the highways of Ontario. I've probably had more personal encounters with the good men and women who serve the province in the provincial police than anyone in this assembly.

**Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre):** How many tickets, Sean?

**Mr Conway:** I'm not going to answer that question. But I want to say that if I'm going to support the police, and I want to, I want it to be a responsible support. I want to support primarily men and women on the beat, whether it is in support of traditional policing, which is watching out for characters like me who might be prone to breaking the Highway Traffic Act, or, very important, as the previous speaker, the member for Niagara Falls, has observed, policing in a more contemporary and a very necessary context, dealing with and routing out the evils of child abuse and sexual abuse or the scourge of drugs in our society.

Those are concerns that were not a major issue in policing. They presumably ought to have been, but they weren't, as far as I can remember, very high on anyone's priority 20, 30 and 40 years ago. They are there now. Obviously we're going to have to accommodate that. People who want to talk about the good old days have to understand that Ontario in 1992 is not Ontario circa 1935. I heard people like my late grandfather, who used to sit in this place, talk about what provincial policing consisted of in my area a generation or two ago. I'm going to tell you, we have come a long way.

So I look at these budgets and I say not just to the assembly but to the Ontario Provincial Police Association: I appreciate your concern, but before I vote to appropriate any additional resources, I want to know more about the \$420 million or \$430 million that various solicitors general have been able to secure for provincial policing. I want to know more than I now know about how we're spending that money. I'm prepared to support more, but I'm not going to throw more money into areas I don't believe are priority concerns.

My principal interests obviously are rural Ontario. If you're running the detachment up in Killaloe, you have



got a very large community, so you're going to be very dependent on your ability to move those cruisers and those men and women in them around a very wide jurisdiction. It is not going to be as major a concern in the city of Pembroke, for example, where we have our own and a very good municipal force.

I was saying to my friend from Manotick—and I'm sure the Solicitor General is having some interesting times with this—that I don't know whether that Toronto Star article of March 18, 1992, is accurate. I suspect it is, those 47 black dots on the map that indicate a number of communities, including ones now served by the former Premier, the former Minister of Finance, the former member from Muskoka, communities well above 5,000 people, are getting free OPP policing. People in communities like Tweed and Wiarton, which are paying their own way, are beginning to ask questions.

I would to say to my friends in the NDP that you've got a very valid point of criticism to direct over here: "How did we let that happen?" I don't know how it happened, but it's a very good question and I suspect we're going to have to deal with it. Fair is fair. Some of these communities, with populations of 30,000 and 35,000, apparently getting—be very careful, Mr Speaker, because I do not want to disturb you, though I think I could, I say to my friend from Manotick.

I think we're going to have to take a look at that, because it's clear that a number of communities have been paying their own way: the village of Tweed, which I drive through three or four times a week, a wonderful community. Somebody told me that Allan Leal is now retired up to Tweed. It has 1,800 people, and they're paying their own municipal police service. A number of these other communities are much larger and apparently getting free OPP policing. That is a situation that obviously is going to have to—

**Hon Mr Pilkey:** Sean, don't take the full rap; look over there too.

1730

**Mr Conway:** No, listen, I accept my share of the responsibility, and I will say here what I said in Cobden the other night: We are in very tough times. People are fed up with taxes, and they of course want more services. Two-thirds of all the money we spend is in the area of health, welfare, education and social services, so let's not kid ourselves about the ability of any Solicitor General to secure the kind of funding that he or she is going to want. At approximately \$420 million, the police budget in this province is less than half of what the drug benefit part of the Ministry of Health budget is. I repeat: The 1991 OPP budget at approximately \$420 million is roughly 50% of the Ontario drug benefit program, which the last time I looked was spending about \$870 million.

I have a lot of sympathy for the Solicitor General, who has to go in and compete with any Minister of Health or any Minister of Social Services who is there in support of homes for the aged and hospitals and all the rest of it, so I am not here to play games with the budget. I know how difficult it is. But I will say to the assembly that there is

concern in rural Ontario that we are not getting the level of service we once had and we require. I think it is going to take not just more money; I would hope that some of the additional money for communities like Cobden can come with more emphasis on community policing.

I agree with the Solicitor General; I think he is absolutely right in that respect. I want to see that kind of community policing. It has worked well in many of the other communities in my area. I want to make sure, though, that community policing is really getting its share of this budget now and that if we appropriate an additional \$20 million or \$30 million it will go to those areas we all deem are the areas of priority. There is a tendency in some of these budgets for the money, perhaps, not to go all the way in the directions that we would like.

I remember our experience—my friend from Oriole will remember as well—when we were in government. I remember the initial appropriation for the much-needed OPP telecommunications system. It was a very good presentation, and it was undoubtedly needed. I think it started off at a rough estimate of around \$50 million. It probably came in at about \$125 million. That is an increase of, I don't know, 200%. It was a very significant increase and it was necessary, but that is money that did not go into community policing directly. It helped, I am sure, but the temptation in defence budgets and police budgets for very sophisticated, high-cost, high-tech gadgetry is almost irresistible.

I just want to say that on behalf of the men and women of Cobden and the rest of rural Renfrew country it's not the gadget we want in the first instance—

**Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew):** Off topic.

**Mr Conway:** My friend from Lanark-Renfrew—he's a very able fellow—would want me to say as well that people in communities like Cobden and Pakenham and Waba and other such wonderful communities want to see Constable Pilkey on the street, they want Constable Pilkey at the school, they want Constable Pilkey at the arena, and they're not seeing that to the extent they would like.

I simply say that there are, from my point of view, some things we can do. We should probably start as a Legislature, for the first time in a long time, taking a good look at this budget. Yes, we will probably have to find some additional resources, but I repeat, before we do, we had better decide as a community of legislators where it is we want the resources allocated.

I don't share some of the views of the member for Leeds-Grenville and others who have spoken about priorities that I don't happen to share. We live in a multicultural community; we've got social realities that I don't like very much, but they've got to be taken account of.

The traditional policing around native communities has been an abomination. It has been a transparent failure, and anything, in my view, would be an improvement over our past record. I congratulate this government and my friend the former Attorney General for some of the initiatives that our government took, but those are first steps. We have to go a long way to redress some historic grievances and historic inequities there.

I've spoken my piece. I thank you for your indulgence.



**Mr David Turnbull (York Mills):** I'm pleased to join in this debate and I'd like to congratulate my colleague the member for Leeds-Grenville for bringing this resolution forward today.

I'd like to talk first of all about the job of the police. It's a very difficult job and it's a job in which they feel very isolated. Unfortunately, we have a government that would like to paint the police into the corner of being in some way not in favour of human rights and all the dignities that we attribute to everybody in society. There's no doubt about it that it's a very difficult job. It's a very high-risk job.

I recall that the very person I met when my wife and I came to live in Canada in 1969 was a young rookie policeman who, not having ever met us before but living in the same building that we did, offered to go out and rent a car to go and get our luggage from Union station. This was my first impression of Canada: the decency, the kindness of Canadians, but more significantly a policeman who was prepared to help. I saw him coming home in that first year he was in the police sometimes devastated from the experiences he'd had, devastated because he'd seen some tragic situations he felt he couldn't help because of the constraints that were put on him even back then.

Progressively we've put more and more constraints on police. We do know certainly that the police sometimes have some bad apples, and unfortunately this government has a penchant for dwelling on bad apples. The vast majority of police are the most incredible pillars of society, people who are going to take risks at very little pay relative to the dangers, and they go out and protect our society with very little thanks.

Our friend the member for Renfrew North commented on the misspent money of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force in building the Taj Mahal. Surely this is not where we should be spending money. We should be spending money on making sure we have enough manpower, and we should have enough equipment for the police so that they are best equipped.

It's with some pride that I say Metro police are recognized as being one of the best police forces around the world. They are not corrupt, they are dedicated to their job, and on the whole they do a very good job. But they are operating under tremendously difficult conditions; they're outgunned and they're outmanned.

When we look across the province we know there are many communities that don't have 24-hour policing any more, and this is thanks to the Liberal government when it was in power, and now the NDP have continued this. One of the most fundamental things people in rural Ontario expect for the taxes they pay is at least that there be police forces available to them, because they don't get many services relative to the big cities.

The people of York Mills are particularly concerned with the erosion of security that has occurred in York Mills and in Metro to date. Looking at the statistics we see that our streets are not safe any more, and we see a 15-year-old girl being abducted on her way home from school. We see that violent crime has risen by 47.9% since 1985; this is a frightening statistic.

I note that the member for Niagara Falls was talking about the recognition of crimes against children, child abuse and wife abuse, and these are indeed crimes that are coming more to the fore. It isn't to suggest that necessarily there is more of it today than there was some years ago, but it is being reported, and it is important we recognize this and make sure we have all of the help on hand, and indeed the police force must be sensitive to these issues and be able to respond to them.

But the way we are going about it at the moment is inappropriate. The appointment of Susan Eng as chair of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board is really inappropriate. Even if we charitably were to suggest that she is a woman of goodwill who has the best intentions for the community at heart, one must say that she is dogged by the fact that she has been needlessly provocative. She has churlishly written a very foolish, childish report on the police chief where she's made many anti-police remarks.

#### 1740

Then we see such things as the NDP appointee to the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board with a statement that he believes police routinely lie on the witness stand in court. Now that is a very serious allegation and it's an allegation the NDP should be particularly sensitive to at the moment. When we have a minister of the crown who admits to losing it and lying about a member of the community, and yet we have NDP appointees to police boards suggesting that police routinely lie on the stand, I would suggest such broad-brush statements are totally inappropriate and not compatible with being on a board of police.

If the statement were made that sometimes a police officer may lie on the stand or may exaggerate, I think we must accept that there are two circumstances. There's one where they are bad apples and we have to weed them out, and then there are the other police who are so frustrated with the system that they definitely want to get the criminal and they feel the whole justice system is working against them.

To use the Minister of Northern Affairs' expression, "losing it," I think that is to be excused sometimes, but we cannot accept it and we must make sure that the police are routinely told that we have higher standards and that we live in a different society.

I think when we look at the issue of crime statistics according to race, we know that within Metropolitan Toronto the police have been ordered not to keep these. I know this is a very sensitive issue, and it isn't an issue that we should attack and say that we cannot keep statistics. We must have statistics in order that we can identify the problem so that we can address it in a way that helps those communities that have difficulties. Crime may be a cry for help and we have to address it. Unless we have the statistics on it we won't be able to address it.

**Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford):** It's with pleasure that I stand up here today to speak. May I say that I think overall this opposition day motion seems to be a rather simplistic view in terms of what is going on with policing.

When the campaign started about the shortage of funding for the OPP and not enough officers, I initiated a con-



versation with my local detachment chief to find out what the situation was locally. I think there's no doubt that there are strains on the system and everyone would admit that. I hope that as a government we are able to find more resources to try to relieve some of those strains. But the types of things we're going to do to solve some of the problems, some of the difficulties police forces are having, OPP and local police forces, are going to take far more than what's in this resolution today.

I looked through the resolution and it says "this government has politicized police services boards." I'd like to know what the member for Leeds-Grenville thought police services boards and police commissions were before. I mean, they had elected officials from municipal governments on them. If that wasn't a political body, a politicized group, then I don't know what was. Police boards have been political for years.

What the Police Services Act does is try to respond to an overall direction of community policing. What does that mean? Well, to me, and I think to many people out there, what community policing means is that we're going to bring in a broader spectrum of the community to be represented on police boards to try to establish priorities for police services in their communities.

In my riding of Oxford many people who wouldn't have been involved in the process but have good experience in the community in terms of being volunteers, being very active, are now filling out application forms to be on police services boards. In the town of Ingersoll we have a person who served on our public utilities commission for several years who's now on there. We have a former town councillor. We have a retired teacher who's also a former driver education instructor. In the city of Woodstock we have the executive director of the United Way. We have a local business person. In other words, we are getting a broad perspective on there. I think that's very important.

My riding certainly understands the strains and the stresses that have been put on police officers, the challenges they have in carrying out their duties. In the last eight years we've had two police officers who've been shot in the line of duty and we most recently had one in September. We understand what they go through. We understand what police officers, firefighters and ambulance officers go through in putting their lives on the line for us, to make our communities safer, to protect us from dangers and accidents.

There is no doubt, I think, that for the most part police forces have been very good in this province and have done a good job, but as society is changing, as community expectations are changing, police forces need to change with that. I think many police forces across the province have initiated changes on their own. Others are responding to the leadership that has been given by previous governments, this Legislature and the community as a whole.

This motion talks about misuse of police resources and says the government is not providing all the support. I even heard comments from opposition members who said this government is anti-police. I think that if you go and look at the record, this government is not anti-police. We support the police and we want the police to be involved in the community. I think most police officers recognize the

need for change, because if they're not integrated into the community as a whole, they're not going to receive the community's support. I think every police officer who's out there putting his life on the line for the residents in the community wants to know that he has community support.

The member for Renfrew North brought up the issue of the police services board report. I certainly find that report very interesting, because in my riding we have a few areas that have police support but weren't included in there; for example, the township of East Zorra-Tavistock. The village of Tavistock, which is part of the township, has its own police force. The township area is covered by the OPP, but it's not included as one of the communities that should be subject to paying for OPP services. I hope that issue gets dealt with.

Quite clearly this resolution here today does nothing to improve police services in the province. It does nothing to promote cooperation, harmony and the concept of community policing to ensure that the police have the support of the community and that all communities, whether they be from different economic classes, whether they be of different ethnic backgrounds, whether they be of any other types of association, are supporting the police forces and are responsive to the community needs. I think that if we're going to make police services in this province more effective then we've got to continue those efforts.

Some of the police services in my riding have done a very good job: basketball games with local organizations to raise money for charity. I saw the program on CITY-TV last night where the chair of the Toronto police commission was on, being accountable to the public. There were representatives of the local police force playing a charity basketball game. Those are the types of things that are going to make police services better and more effective.

As my final comment, we all have an obligation to help the police. I just want to put a plug in for the Crime Stoppers programs, which I think are very effective in helping all police forces to make policing better in this province.

1750

**Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East):** I am pleased to have the opportunity to say a few words on this very important opposition day in this Legislature. Opposition days are important because they give the members in all parties the opportunity to discuss very important issues in this Legislature. I think this is one of the most important issues we have discussed here in a long time.

The government has created a safety crisis with its chronic underfunding of police services, and of the Ontario Provincial Police specifically. While dollars and staff allocated to the OPP have dwindled, the staff and resources at the Ministry of the Solicitor General have increased significantly. We heard earlier on today, for instance, about some 9% increase in staff in the field and some 67% increase in head office. I find it unacceptable to realize that the people in the field doing the work are not being complemented as I feel they should be.

The ministry had set aside money to replace specialized officers needed for such programs as the RIDE program.



Instead the money was used to increase the ministry staff. They cut out the Golden Helmets, the Pipes and Drums, and other major things that we have had in this province for many years.

They estimate the Ontario police services are understaffed by about 500 officers, and another 197 are scheduled to retire this year. Current government policy is forcing the OPP to reduce the use of gasoline and cut down on patrols. They are diverting uniformed officers from patrols or from responding to calls to perform court duty or to escort prisoners, which is a job that I believe could be better handled by retired police officers. I have said for many years that it should be run from the county jail to the court where they are held, and retired officers could do that on a two- or three-day basis. It would cut down on the cost of officers running back forth twice in a day.

The 911 number has been taken off with regard to the consultative services for the consultant who offers advice and assistance to communities to provide that emergency 911 service. When we look at some of the aspects that have been cut back in the OPP specifically, we have to wonder where this government's priorities are.

I wrote to the Solicitor General a while ago on behalf of the Oro township community policing committee to express its concerns with regard to the need for an increased police presence in OPP District 7. That takes in a very large area. Superintendent Burke has had a major concern with regard to the understaffing he has indicated, some 34 officers out of the Barrie detachment that they have neglected to fill.

A portion of the letter I got from the minister is very interesting because he says:

"As you are aware, the current global recession has seriously impacted on all sectors of our society, whether public or private, resulting in a significant decrease in government revenue. This fiscal decline has affected the provincial government's ability to provide ministry funding to the same extent as in the past."

That is a form letter, I am sure, that was sent to most of the people who had written to him with regard to policing across the province.

The OPP recently completed a province-wide review for service delivery with regard to the uniformed staff levels, and the Solicitor General indicates that he is looking at the recommendations and the findings. When will we ever hear what the findings are?

I have another interesting letter that I received a copy of. It was addressed to the Premier and had specifically to do with a Harold Rogers of Orillia. It's not my letter, it's not my words. It's a resident who wrote to the Premier with regard to this very specific case of an individual charged with manslaughter:

"...the recent charge of manslaughter for an occurrence in 1954, against this man who is in his seventies and is very seriously ill, is an unconscionable waste of the taxpayers' money and the OPP's resources.... In view of complaints of shortage of OPP funds and personnel, the extravagant expense and wasted manpower involved in this charge which has virtually no chance of resulting in a conviction is completely unjustifiable."

They understand the OPP has gone as far as British Columbia to interview witnesses. When we look at some of the waste that is going on, there is a great concern right across this province.

I just want to indicate briefly that another paragraph of that letter that was sent to the Premier says: "How could the prosecution possibly expect to convince a jury of 12 people to arrive at a unanimous 'guilty' verdict based on necessarily unreliable 38-year-old recollections by people whose judgement is subject to question? This is a pipedream." And we talk about some of the waste that some people indicate there is in policing services.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General and most other government ministries at Queen's Park are more interested in some cases—and we have looked at the spending estimates of this government, and if we look at all the different ministries and at the increase in administration expenditures, that's where this government has focused: on increasing ministry staff in every government office in this city and across this province.

There are officers complaining about drug pushers getting lighter sentences, and the previous Attorney General chastised the police for saying that. For the officers killed, wounded or severely injured on duty, no one stood up to express support or extend their condolences to the families, yet two cabinet ministers attended the Wade Lawson funeral.

It's important to watch the record. They've done away with the Golden Helmets, the pipe band and the oath of office. This resolution is timely, it's appropriate, and I commend the member for Leeds-Grenville, who has brought this forward today for a full and public debate in this Legislature.

1800

The House divided on Mr Runciman's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

**Ayes—13**

Carr, Cousens, Cunningham, Eves, Harnick, Jackson, Jordan, McLean, Runciman, Sterling, Stockwell, Turnbull, Wilson (Simcoe West).

**Nays—71**

Akande, Allen, Bisson, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Conway, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Daigeler, Drainville, Duignan, Elston, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Grandmaitre, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Henderson, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Lan-kin, Lessard, MacKinnon, Mammoliti, Mancini, Marchese, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Miclash, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury);

North, O'Connor, O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Owens, Per-ruzza, Pilkey, Poole, Pouliot, Silipo, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wild-man, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

**The Deputy Speaker:** It being past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned at 1807.



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO  
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD**

**Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner**

**Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth**

**Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries**

**Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling**

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et projets de loi privés
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	<b>Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.</b>	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	<b>Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed</b>	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	<b>Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred</b>	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	<b>Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	<b>Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian</b>	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	<b>Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard</b>	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	<b>Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer</b>	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	<b>Ziembra, Hon/L'hon Elaine</b>	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip/whip adjoint du gouvernement
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	<b>Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles</b>	ND	Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	
London Centre/-Centre	<b>Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion</b>	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathyssen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	



Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	<b>Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley</b>	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	<b>Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd</b>	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	<b>Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan</b>	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	<b>Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn</b>	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet/adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	<b>Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen</b>	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	<b>Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	<b>Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard</b>	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	<b>Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn</b>	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législativ
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip, Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	<b>Warner, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	<b>Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley</b>	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman, Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman/ vice-président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	<b>Cooke, Hon/L'hon David</b>	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Présidente du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	<b>Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob</b>	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale



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COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE**

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Elizabeth Witmer

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